UTOPIA

AVENGERS® • X-MEN®

UTOPIA

AVENGERS • X-MEN

© 2019 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

UTOPIA

AVENGERS • X-MEN

Writer: MATT FRACTION

CHAPTER ONE: "UTOPIA"

Penciler: MARC SILVESTRI

Pencil Assists: MICHAEL BROUSSARD, ERIC BASALDUA, TYLER KIRKHAM & SHELDON MITCHELL

Inkers: JOE WEEMS with MARCO GALLI, ERIC BASALDUA, RICK BASALDUA, JASON GORDER, JAY LEISTEN, SAL REGLA, JON SIBAL & RYAN WINN

Colorist: FRANK D'ARMATA

CHAPTERS TWO AND FOUR

Penciler: TERRY DODSON

Inker: RACHEL DODSON

Colorist: JUSTIN PONSOR

CHAPTERS THREE AND FIVE

Penciler: LUKE ROSS

Inkers: RICK MAGYAR, MARK PENNINGTON & LUKE ROSS

Colorist: RAIN BEREDO & DEAN WHITE

CONCLUSION: "EXODUS"

Artists: MIKE DEODATO & TERRY DODSON with RACHEL DODSON

Colorists: JUSTIN PONSOR & CHRISTINA STRAIN

DARK X-MEN: THE CONFESSION

Writers: CRAIG KYLE & CHRIS YOST

Penciler: BING CANSINO

Inker: ROLAND PARIS

Colorist: EDGAR DELGADO with BRIAN REBER

X-MEN LEGACY

Writer: MIKE CAREY

Penciler: DUSTIN WEAVER

Inker: EDGAR TADEO

Colorist: BRIAN REBER

DARK REIGN: THE CABAL

"Emma Frost: How I Survived Apocalyptic Fire"

Writer: MATT FRACTION

Artist: DANIEL ACUNA

"Namor, the Sub-Mariner: The Judgment of Namor"

Writer: KIERON GILLEN

Artist: CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO

DARK X-MEN: THE BEGINNING

"Namor/Norman"
"Temptation of Cloak and Dagger"
"Hidden Depths"

Writer: PAUL CORNELL

Penciler: LEONARD KIRK

Inkers: JAY LEISTEN & LEONARD KIRK

Colorist: BRIAN REBER

"Mimic"

Writer: JAMES ASMUS

Penciler: JESSE DELPERDANG

Inkers: ANDY LANNING with JESSE DELPERDANG

Colorist: RAIN BEREDO

"Dark Beast"

Writer: SHANE MCCARTHY

Artist: IBRAIM ROBERSON

Colorist: MATT MILLA

"Weapon Omega"

Writer: MARC BERNARDIN & ADAM FREEMAN

Artist: MICHEL LACOMBE

Colorist: JOHN RAUCH

"I Am Daken"

Writer: ROB WILLIAMS

Penciler: PACO DIAZ

Inker: GUILLERMO ORTEGA

Colorist: EDGAR DELGADO

"Get Mystique [Slight Return]"

Writer: JASON AARON

Artist: JOCK

Colorist: DAVE STEWART

"The One Who Got Away"

Writer: SIMON SPURRIER

Artist: PAUL DAVIDSON

Colorist: RAIN BEREDO

Letterers: CHRIS ELIOPOULOS, VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA & CORY PETIT, ROB STEEN and DAVE SHARPE

Covers: MARC SILVESTRI, JOE WEEMS & FRANK D'ARMATA; TERRY DODSON & RACHEL DODSON; MIKE DEODATO & RAIN BEREDO; STEVE MCNIVEN & MORRY HOLLOWELL; YANICK PAQUETTE, MICHEL LACOMBE & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN; DANIEL ACUNA; and JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG

Assistant Editors: DANIEL KETCHUM

Associate Editors: JEANINE SCHAEFER & LAUREN SANKOVITCH

Editor: NICK LOWE

Executive Editors: AXEL ALONSO & TOM BREVOORT

Collection Editor: MARK D. BEAZLEY

Assistant Editors: NELSON RIBEIRO & ALEX STARBUCK

Editor, Special Projects: JENNIFER GRÜNWALD

Senior Editor, Special Projects: JEFF YOUNGQUIST

SVP of Print & Digital Publishing Sales: DAVID GABRIEL

Production: JERRY KALINOWSKI

Book Designer: SPRING HOTELING

Digital Manager/Production: TIM SMITH 3

Digital Production: JACKELINE TEJADA

Editor in Chief: C.B. CEBULSKI

Chief Creative Officer: JOE QUESADA

President: DAN BUCKLEY

Executive Producer: ALAN FINE

UTOPIA CHAPTER ONE

WHEN HE THINKS OF ALL THE THINGS HE'S ACCOMPLISHED, SIMON TRASK CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE.
HE'S CONNECTED, OF COURSE, SO THAT HELPED-- BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY HIS ACHIEVEMENTS ARE A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF HIS WILL. OF HIS VISION. OF THIS VISION:
SAVE THE CHILDREN
ADAM & EVE NOT ATOM &
"PROTECTING CHILDREN. PROTECTING OUR SCHOOLS, OUR TOWNS.
"PROTECTING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE FROM GROTESQUE CATASTROPHE.
"PEOPLE PROTECTING PEOPLE."
THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL HE WANTS.
"THE LAST TIME A MUTANT WAS BORN, AN ENTIRE TOWN WAS RAZED BY CHAOS AND VIOLENCE.
"AND ALL WE NEED TO DO TO MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN IS TO GENTLY AND HUMANELY LEGISLATE WHEN AND HOW MUTANTS ARE ALLOWED TO BREED."
WHEN HE PUTS IT THAT WAY...WHO COULD POSSIBLY BE AGAINST HIM?
THEY STARTED MARCHING IN SACRAMENTO WITH THAT SIMPLE MESSAGE.
AND TODAY, FINALLY, SIMON TRASK, AND HIS HUMANITY NOW! COALITION MARCH ON...

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: MARKET ST.

bloomingdale's

UTOPIA
PART 1

HOME OF THE HIPPIE AND THE FREAK AND THE MISFIT AND NOW...

...THE MUTANT.

IGNORE THE HUMANS. THESE ARE THE SMALL FISH.

HOMOSAPIENS FIRST

PRO X NOW

PRO X NOW

AH. HERE WE GO, CHILDREN. FACE FRONT, TRUE BELIEVERS.

IT'S SHOWTIME.

DR. HENRY McCOY--BEAST. AGILE. VAGUELY FELINE. COMPASSIONATE.
HATE CRIME
THERE ARE MULTIPLE ROUTES YOU CAN CHOOSE TO GET FROM HERE TO CITY HALL.
ALL OF WHICH WILL REQUIRE GOING AROUND US.
MUTANTS ARE
MUTAN

WE'RE EXERCISING OUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS TO FREE SPEECH AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY. YOU HAVE NO LEGAL GROUNDS UPON WHICH TO PREVENT OUR PASSAGE.
WE'VE NO INTEREST IN STIFLING ANY OF YOUR RIGHTS, MR. TRASK. IN FACT, WE'RE HERE TO EXERCISE OUR OWN.

JEAN-PAUL BEAUBIER--NORTHSTAR. STRONG. FAST. CANADIAN.
SPEW ALL THE HATE YOU WANT--
--YOUR CAUSE WILL FIND NO SUPPORT HERE.
WEIRDO!
MUTIE!
FREAK!

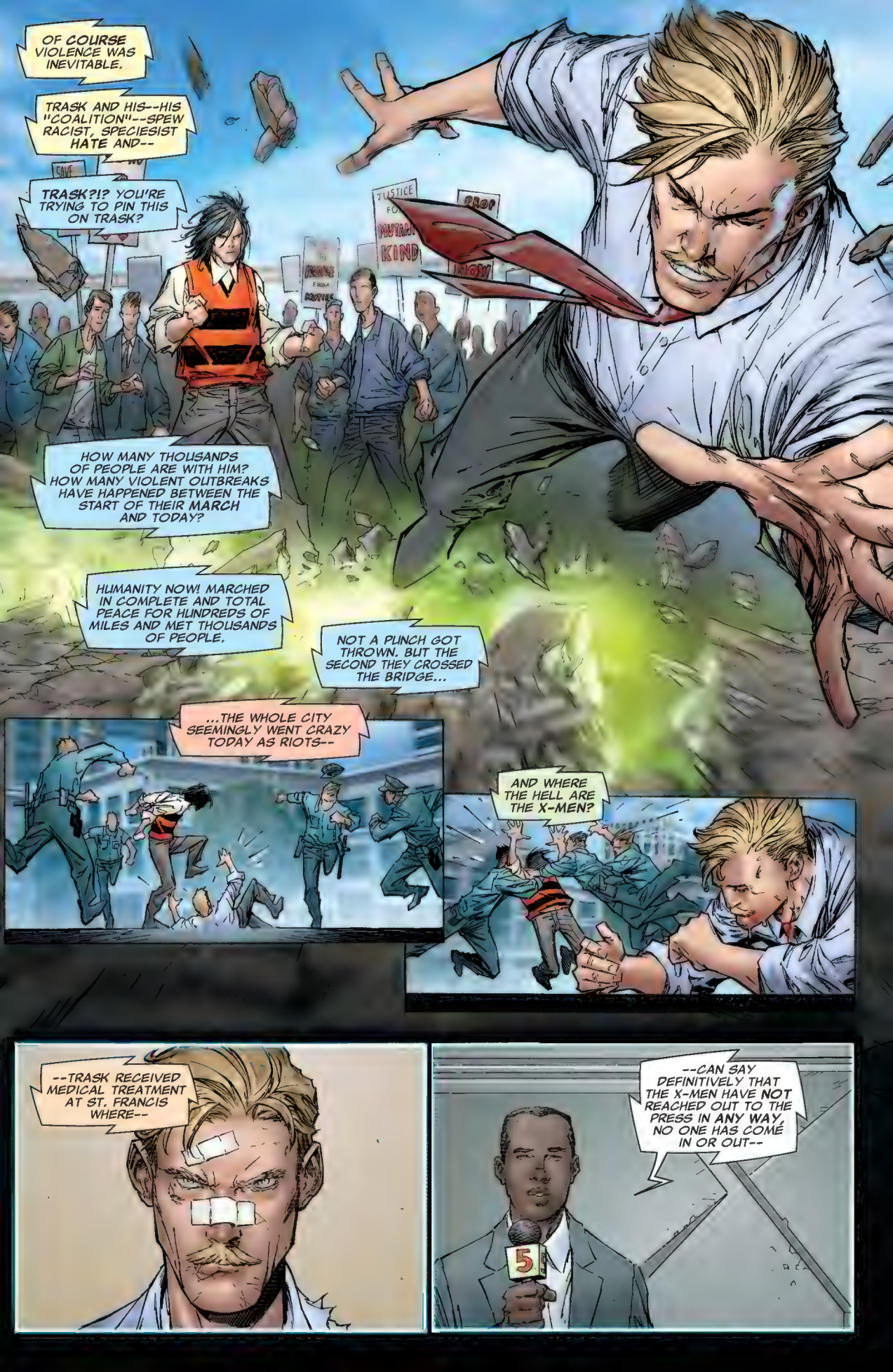
NOW NOW, FRIENDS. NO REASON TO GET THE ACLU INVOLVED. WE MUSN'T EXERCISE HATE-SPEAK.
WE'RE ALL ADULTS HERE.
...SURELY COOL HEADS WILL PREVAIL.

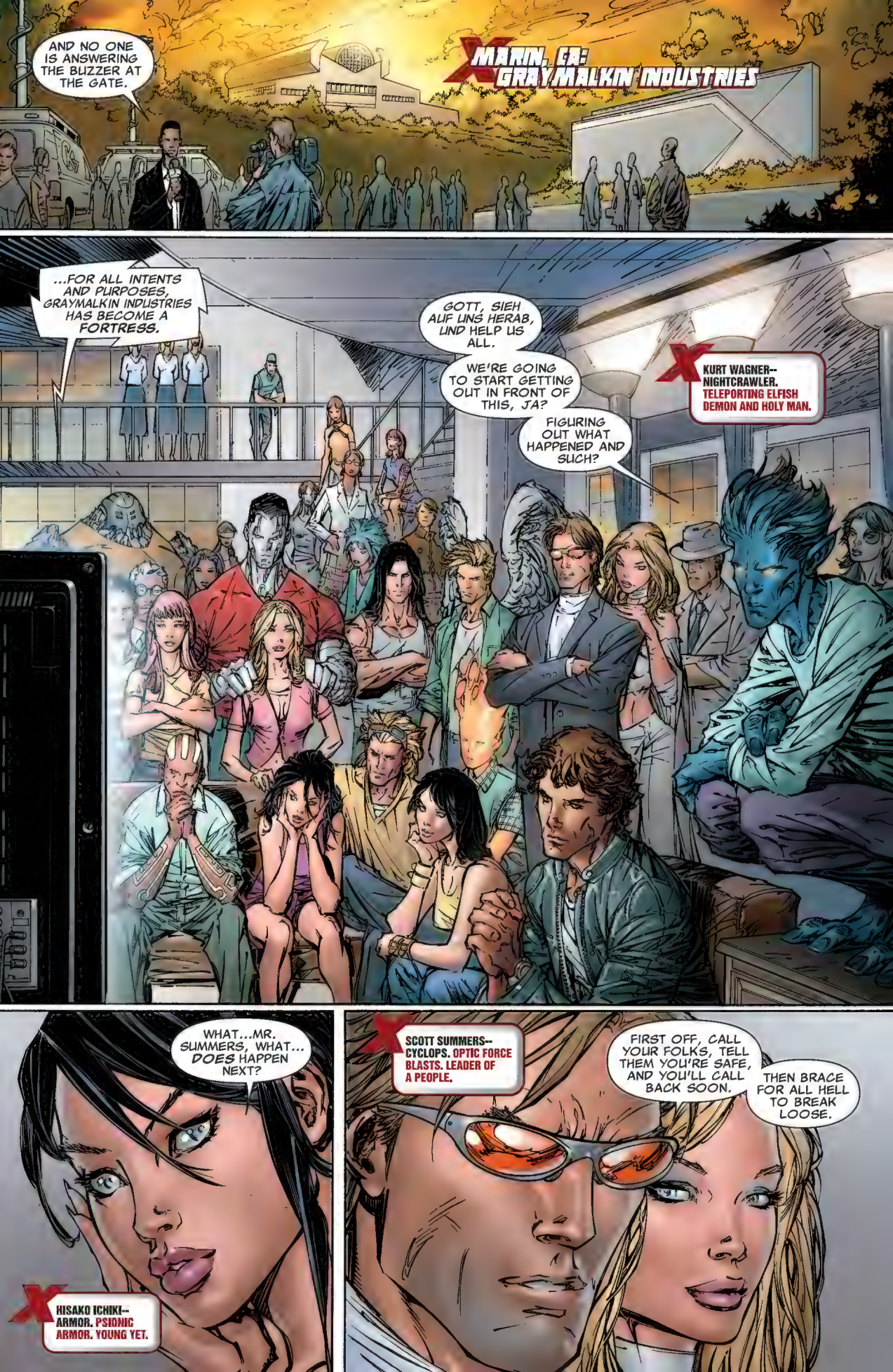
MUTANTS ARE PEOPLE TOO!
GUYS, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
NO TO PROP X
SHUT UP, PIXIE. WE GOT THESE RACISTS.
MEGAN GWYNN--PIXIE LIKE A THING UNTO A PIXIE. ALSO TELEPORTS.
JULIAN KELLER--HELLION. TELEKINETIC. ANGER ISSUES.

GET BACK TO YOUR CAVES, APEMAN!
THESE STREETS BELONG TO THE FUTURE!
PROTECT MUTANT
SAVE THE CHILDREN
YOU WANT TO START SOMETHING, FREAK SHOW?!?
ABOMINATION!
JULIAN-- PIXIE, WAIT, NO--
--KIDS, STAY BACK, STAY BACK--
BE CAREFUL! THEY'RE IN IT TOGETHER!
MY GOD-- THE MUTANTS HAVE CUT US OFF!
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
"PEOPLE PROTECTING PEOPLE.
"AGAINST THIS."

PEOPLE, NO--!
MEGAN--!!
--REPEAT. ALL UNITS, ALL UNITS, REPORTS OF A RIOT ERUPTING AT MARKET AND POWELL--
--X-MEN REPORTED ON SCENE--
--CORRECTION X-MEN REPORTED AT SCENE--THEY'RE A PART OF THE RIOT SO BE CAREFUL, FOLKS--
S.F.P.D.

LATE-BREAKING REPORTS OF A RIOT BREAKING OUT IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO--
--STREET, CABLE CAR, AND B.A.R.T. TRAFFIC SHUT DOWN--
--EMERGENCY ROOM AT ST. FRANCIS PUT ON ALERT--
--MUTANTS REPORTED ON-SCENE AND ACTIVELY RIOTING--
--WHAT SO-CALLED "MUTANT POWERS" OR WHAT LEVEL OF DAMAGE THEY MIGHT CAUSE--
--NO COMMENT FROM CITY HALL OR--
--SIMON TRASK AND THE HUMANITY NOW! COALITION--
--COMPLETING THEIR SO-CALLED MARCH FOR HUMANITY THAT BEGAN EARLIER THIS WEEK IN SACRAMENTO--
ICE
--PERMITS AND PERMISSIONS WERE ON FILE WITH THE CITY AND--
REPORTS OF X-MEN ON THE SCENE ARE ALSO UNCONFIRMED.


OF COURSE VIOLENCE WAS INEVITABLE.
TRASK AND HIS--HIS "COALITION"--SPEW RACIST, SPECIESIST HATE AND--
TRASK?!? YOU'RE TRYING TO PIN THIS ON TRASK?
HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE WITH HIM? HOW MANY VIOLENT OUTBREAKS HAVE HAPPENED BETWEEN THE START OF THEIR MARCH AND TODAY?
HUMANITY NOW! MARCHED IN COMPLETE AND TOTAL PEACE FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES AND MET THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.
NOT A PUNCH GOT THROWN. BUT THE SECOND THEY CROSSED THE BRIDGE...
...THE WHOLE CITY SEEMINGLY WENT CRAZY TODAY AS RIOTS--
AND WHERE THE HELL ARE THE X-MEN?
--TRASK RECEIVED MEDICAL TREATMENT AT ST. FRANCIS WHERE--
--CAN SAY DEFINITIVELY THAT THE X-MEN HAVE NOT REACHED OUT TO THE PRESS IN ANY WAY, NO ONE HAS COME IN OR OUT--
5


AND NO ONE IS ANSWERING THE BUZZER AT THE GATE.
MARIN, CA: GRAYMALKIN INDUSTRIES
...FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, GRAYMALKIN INDUSTRIES HAS BECOME A FORTRESS.
GOTT, SIEH AUF UNS HERAB, UND HELP US ALL.
WE'RE GOING TO START GETTING OUT IN FRONT OF THIS, JA?
FIGURING OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND SUCH?
KURT WAGNER-- NIGHTCRAWLER. TELEPORTING ELFISH DEMON AND HOLY MAN.
WHAT...MR. SUMMERS, WHAT... DOES HAPPEN NEXT?
HISAKO ICHIKI-- ARMOR. PSIONIC ARMOR. YOUNG YET.
SCOTT SUMMERS-- CYCLOPS. OPTIC FORCE BLASTS. LEADER OF A PEOPLE.
FIRST OFF, CALL YOUR FOLKS, TELL THEM YOU'RE SAFE, AND YOU'LL CALL BACK SOON.
THEN BRACE FOR ALL HELL TO BREAK LOOSE.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: CITY HALL
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED OUT THERE TODAY?
WHY WEREN'T YOU ON SITE? WHY DIDN'T YOU CONTROL THIS?
HANK McCOY, SUMMERS. IN THE STREETS.
FOUR--FIVE OF YOUR KIDS SHOW UP STOMPING PEOPLE?
LIVE AT FIVE HAS FOOTAGE OF TRASK GETTING BEATEN UP BY ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS...
FIRST OFF, I WASN'T OUT THERE BECAUSE QUITE FRANKLY I DIDN'T KNOW, AND SECOND--
--I'M NOT PRESIDENT OF MUTANTKIND AND I'M NOBODY'S KING, AND JUST BECAUSE I ASK 'EM TO, NOT EVERY MUTANT IN THE WORLD WILL DO WHAT I SAY, SADIE.
IT'S MAYOR SINCLAIR WHEN I'M YELLING AT YOU.
YOU HAVE TO GET ON TOP OF THIS, SCOTT. YOU HAVE TO SET YOUR PEOPLE--
--HIS "PEOPLE"? HOW DARE YOU.
EMMA.
EMMA FROST--THE WHITE QUEEN. PSYCHIC POWERHOUSE. FILLED WITH SECRETS.
YOU LIVE IN THE BIG HOUSE, SCOTT, YOU MOW THE BIG LAWN.
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T INCITE THIS MESS, BUT WHEN NIGHT FALLS, YOU HAVE TO BE OUT THERE KEEPING PEOPLE CALM--
OF COURSE, OF COURSE. WE NEED HANK BACK, AND FAST, IF YOU CAN EXPEDITE--
MAYOR SINCLAIR!
TRASK HAS CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE--

SAN FRANCISCO, CA:
ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL
WE SHALL NOT BE INTIMIDATED, AND WE SHALL NOT BE STOPPED.
WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE PEACEFULLY. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE OUR VOICES HEARD.
THAT WE WERE ATTACKED IS THE PRICE WE MUST SOMETIMES PAY...
...WHEN WE DARE STAND UP FOR FREEDOM AND SAFETY AND THE OTHER INALIENABLE HUMAN RIGHTS THAT MAKE THIS THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH.
WE'RE MARCHING ON CITY HALL AS IS OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.
EVERY LIVING MUTANT WITH POWERS IS LIKE HAVING A LOADED GUN POINTED AT OUR HEADS, BUT WE WILL NOT LIVE IN FEAR.
THIS JUST IN FROM SFO WHERE H.A.M.M.E.R. DIRECTOR NORMAN OSBORN HAS JUST ARRIVED, ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE OF RUMORS THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO IS ABOUT TO BE FEDERALIZED--
WELL THERE IT IS.
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET UGLY, SCOTT.

WAKANDA:
--TENSIONS SKYROCKETING IN SAN FRANCISCO--
NEW YORK CITY:
HEY, MAN, IF YOU NEED TO GO--
SNIKT!
TRANSDIMENSIONAL WARP VESSEL QUADRA ORBITING SOL-909:
--ANTI-MUTANT SENTIMENT AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH--
WHY DO PEOPLE HATE MUTANTS, MOM?
DOES THAT MEAN THEY HATE ME?
LATVERIA:
WELL THEN. HERE'S TO THINGS FINALLY GETTING INTERESTING.
INDEED.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
THE CASTRO:
NIGHT FALLS AND TEMPERS FLARE.
PEOPLE TAKE TO THE STREETS.
NOW!
THEY'RE NOT OUT AS SUPER HEROES OR SUPER VILLAINS OR SUPER-ANYTHING.
THEY'RE OUT IN THE STREETS TONIGHT BECAUSE A MILLION PEOPLE SHOWED UP IN THEIR HOMETOWN DEMANDING LAWS BE PASSED THAT FORBIDS THEM TO HAVE BABIES.
SOME OF THEM ARE HERE TO DO MORE THAN JUST CHANT.
SOME OF THEM ARE HERE TO SCREAM.
--MOVE--
SOME OF THEM ARE HERE TO FIGHT.
DIE, MUTIES!

IN THE END, FEAR IS THE WATCHWORD FOR THE DAY.
TERRIFIED PEOPLE, SURROUNDED BY THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE, ARM THEMSELVES IN THE NAME OF PROTECTION...
AND THEN SUCCUMB TO FEAR AND LASH OUT.
THE MADNESS OF CROWDS REIGNS SUPREME.
THE CASTRO STREET THEATER IS THE NIGHT'S FIRST CASUALTY.
MATCH. GET THE FIRES.
Y'THINK?
IT'S TOO LATE--
THIS WHOLE CITY'S GOING TO ERUPT.

NOB HILL:
NOT SO FAST.
TELEGRAPH HILL:
STOP THEM!
LIM--HOW?
WHERE IS MS. FROST?!? SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
HAYES VALLEY:
CALM DOWN, SON.
--WE'RE GONNA BE IN CAMPS NEXT--
PIOTR RASPUTIN--COLOSSUS. ORGANIC METAL. COLOSSAL.
THE EMBARCADERO:
CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU BEEN TOLD YOUR WHOLE LIFE--
--YOU AIN'T A COP! GET OUTTA OUR WAY!

I'VE BEEN BEATING YOU UP SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER, TOAD.
I'LL STOP WHENEVER YOU'RE READY TO STOP BEING THE MOST USELESS CRETIN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
GOOD ONE MISTER
PHOEBE, MINDEE, AND CELESTE--THE STEPFORD CUCKOOS. TELEPATHIC HIVE MIND.
SUMMERS.
DAMMIT, TOYNBEE--
GGTTTHHH
THIS IS THE REAL THING, TOAD. THIS ISN'T THIS STUPID THING WE ALWAYS DO.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END AND YOU'RE OUT HERE THROWING GASOLINE ON THE--
SHUT UP!

HUMANITY NOW! HUMANITY NOW!
MISTER SUMMERS, WE
CAN'T KEEP THEM
UNDER CONTROL--!
ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE WANTED TO DO WHEN I STARTED LECTURING THEM...
JEEZ, BUDDY, YOU OKAY?
WE'VE GOT A MEDICAL STATION UP THE STREET--
I'M FINE.
EVERYBODY'S HEADING TO CITY HALL-- WE'VE GOT ACTION IN ALMOST EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD--
A FEW OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE, A FEW FIRES, SOME LOOTING--
IT'S NOT THE VIOLENCE WE CAN'T HANDLE, IT'S THE DAMN SIZE.
NO DISRESPECT, BUT IF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU GUYS TO HANDLE--
WHO'RE THEY GONNA BRING IN TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER?

THIS CITY HAS LOST ITS DAMN MIND AND SCOTT SUMMERS CAN'T SEEM TO YANK THE LEASH.
SAN FRANCISCO BAY: H.A.M.M.E.R. WEST
SO IT'S TIME FOR MY AVENGERS TO GET TO WORK.
WHY AIN'T YOU SUITED UP, OZZIE? TOO HEAVY FOR YOU OUT THERE? DON'T WANNA GET YOUR CORNROWS MUSSED?
HAWKEYE--AKA BULLSEYE. WORLD'S DEADLIEST ASSASSIN. UNREPENTANT.
IS IT ME, OR ARE YOU TURNING INTO A BIGGER PAIN IN THE ASS EVERY DAY?
SHOW A MODICUM OF RESPECT OR I'LL DOUBLE YOUR MEDS AND THE ONLY THING YOU'LL BE KILLING IS THE TIME BETWEEN YOUR DIAPER CHANGES.
NORMAN OSBORN--AKA IRON PATRIOT. DIRECTOR OF H.A.M.M.E.R. MODIFIED STARK INDUSTRIES WAR SUIT. TEAM LEADER.

YOU'LL EACH BE ASSIGNED DIFFERENT HOT ZONES DYNAMICALLY AS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND EVOLVES.
SFPD IS THE FIRST WAVE; STANDARD H.A.M.M.E.R. MUSCLE SQUADS ARE NEXT; YOU'RE THE COUP DE GRACE. STANDARD RULES OF ENGAGEMENT APPLY.
ANY COSTUMED MUTANT BREAKING THE LAW--*ANY LAW*--AND YOU TAKE THEM DOWN AND RESTRAIN THEM UNTIL *ARREST*.
NO FATALITIES. DON'T FORGET--CAMERAS WILL BE *EVERYWHERE*.
PSHT.
BOB, YOU'LL HANG BACK WITH ME--
OKAY.
BOB REYNOLDS--THE SENTRY. NEAR OMNIPOTENT AND GODLIKE; SCHIZOPHRENIC.
NO REASON TO LEAD WITH OUR HUMAN H-BOMB, IS THERE?
TONIGHT'S ABOUT *KEEPING CIVILIANS SAFE* AND *STOPPING THE RIOTS*. BE *PRECISE*. BE *EFFICIENT*.
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?
IN BETWEEN ALL THE CARNAGE, I REALLY MUST RECOMMEND YOU EAT AT *CHEZ PANISSE* BEFORE YOU DIE.
I MEAN, I HAD TO KILL THREE PEOPLE TO GET RESERVATIONS. IT'S THAT WONDERFUL.
DAKEN AKIHIRO--WOLVERINE. SON OF WOLVERINE. A MAN OF WEALTH AND TASTE.

THE CASTRO:
LADIES...
YOU'RE NOT DOING THE CAUSE ANY GREAT FAVORS TONIGHT.
THE CAUSE? THE CAUSE?!?
THEY SOLD US OUT AGAIN-- HUMANS--
WE WERE--WE WERE PROMISED, DAMMIT. THEY PROMISED US UTOPIA...
AND NOW THIS. WHO CAN BREED AND WHEN. THEY'LL BE KICKING DOWN OUR DOORS NEXT.
THEY'LL NEVER STOP, YOU IDIOTS.
WE WILL ALWAYS BE HUNTED AND TORMENTED AND KILLED AGAIN AND AGAIN.
WE HAVE TO RISE UP--

HOW DESPERATELY TEENAGE YOU SOUND.
DR. KARLA SOFEN– MS. MARVEL. FLIGHT. INVINCIBILITY. ENERGY BLASTS.
KILL
YOU'LL KILL US ALL
STOP RIGHT--
KKKKGGG
WE'VE ALL BEEN BUSY IN THE FIELD AND HAVEN'T GOTTEN WORD FROM GRAYMALKIN ABOUT--
ARE THE AVENGERS HERE TO SAVE US?
SURE.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS.

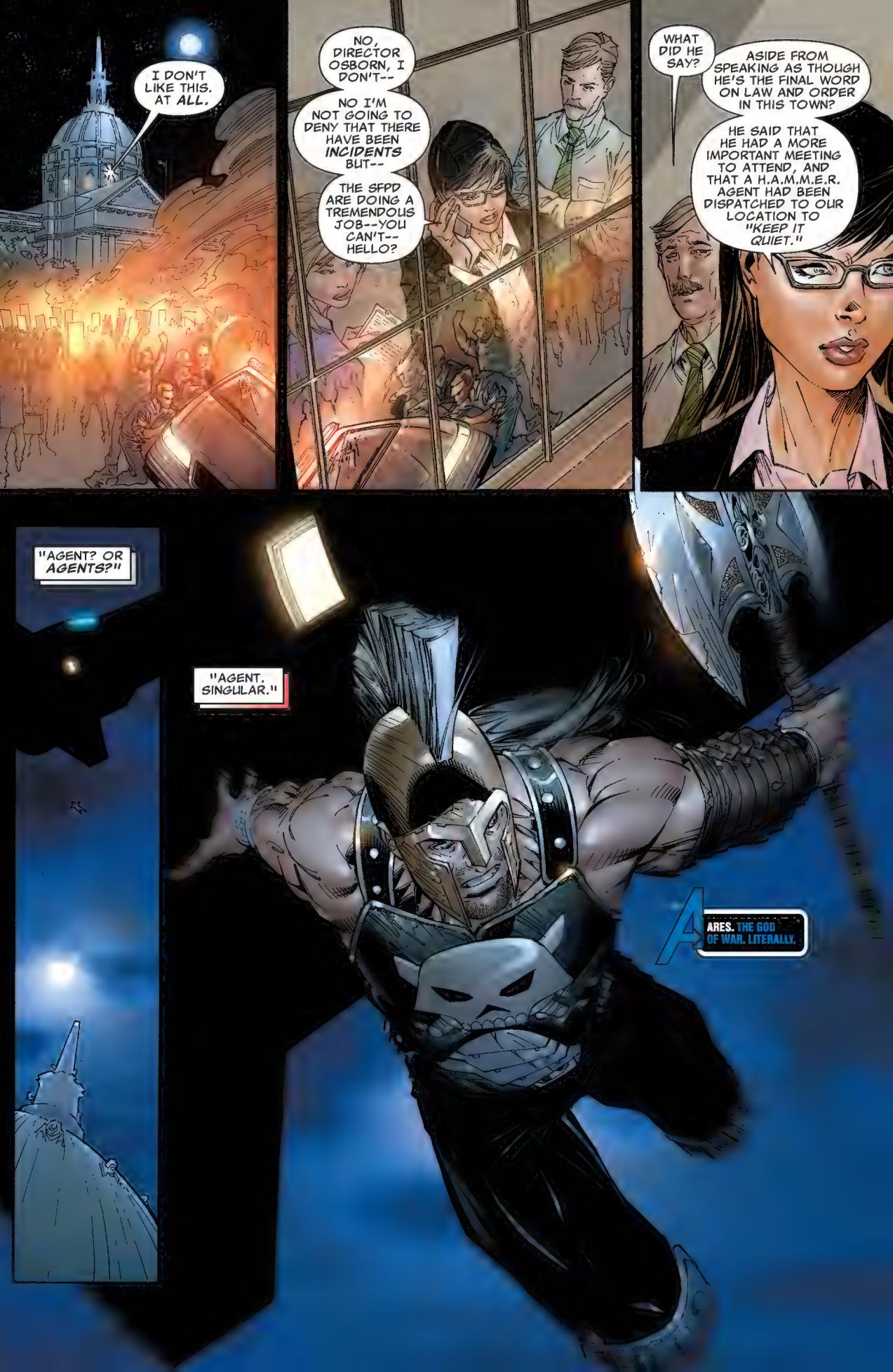
HAYES VALLEY
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BEAT ROCKSLIDE UP LIKE THAT--
I CAN. HE ATTACKED ME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT SO INTO IT.
I'LL APOLOGIZE WHEN HE WAKES UP.
THE RIOTS. WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE PATROLLED THE PERIMETER--
--ISOLATED RINGLEADERS--
AND HELPED WITH ARRESTS UNTIL--
LADIES. ONE MOMENT.
SOMETHING'S HERE.

HNNG. ASSAULT AND BATTERY. DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY. CHILD ENDANGERMENT. PROBABLY.
RUN, GIRLS.
AND DON'T LOOK BACK.
MAC GARGAN—SPIDER-MAN. CONTROLLED BY SYMBIOTE. CRAZY.
STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW.

THE EMBARCADERO:
BE READY, GUYS.
AND BE COOL. WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE THIS MESS ANY BIGGER--
HEY!
YOU CAN'T IMPEDE OUR MARCH!
IT'S OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT--
@$@% IN' FASCISTS! YOU @#!@IN' PIGS!
THE EMBARCADERO CENTER IS PRIVATE PROPERTY.
TAKE THE SURFACE STREETS AND GO AROUND-- ANY FORM OF TRESPASS IS--
DAMMIT--!!

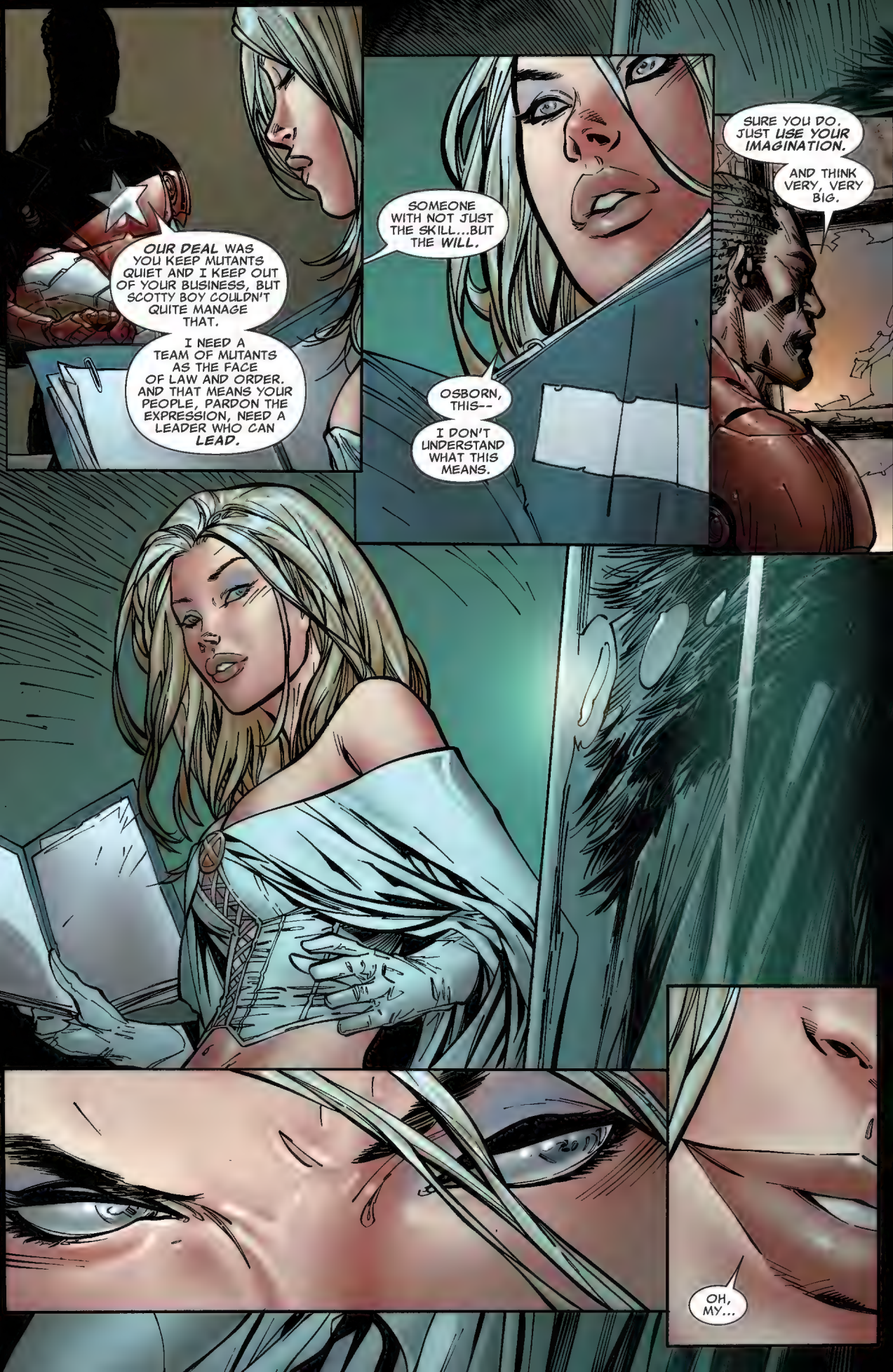
THAT'S IT--
HEY!!
GO AROUND, HIPPIES.
THAT'S RIGHT. RUN AWAY.
SO MANY DUMBASS PUNKS.
SO LITTLE TIME.
TWO MORE SECONDS AND I WAS GONNA START TASERING EVERYTHING IN A T-SHIRT AND DUMB LITTLE GOATEE.
NICE WORK, GUY.
NICE WORK? YOU SHOULD SEE HOW GOOD I AM WHEN THEY LET ME SHOOT.
I DUNNO HOW YOU GUYS DO IT.
BECAUSE NOT KILLING THEM SUCKS.

TELEGRAPH HILL:
THIS SUCKS.
OH, HERE HE COMES.
THANK GOD.
MR. SUMMERS!
CYCLOPS WHEN WE'RE IN THE FIELD, ONYXX.
RIGHT, RIGHT.
WHAT'S THE SIT-REP, KIDS?
THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE A COUPLE HOURS AGO, BUT MOSTLY THEY JUST BROKE CAR WINDOWS AND SCREAMED AND STUFF.
EVERYBODY'S BEEN GOING TO CITY HALL SO WE'VE JUST BEEN, LIKE, WAITING AROUND HERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO.
AND WHERE THE HELL IS MS. FROST? ISN'T SHE, LIKE, OUR SUPERVISOR OR SOMETHING?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE EMMA IS.
IF THE ACTION IS AT CITY HALL, WE GO TO CITY HALL.

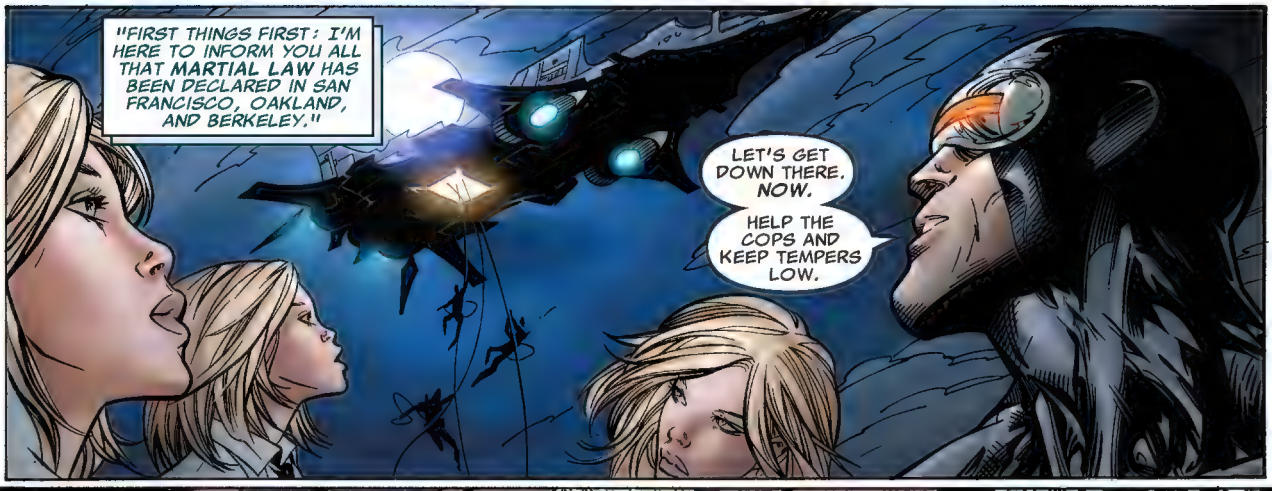

I DON'T LIKE THIS. AT ALL.
NO, DIRECTOR OSBORN, I DON'T--
NO I'M NOT GOING TO DENY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS BUT--
THE SFPD ARE DOING A TREMENDOUS JOB--YOU CAN'T-- HELLO?
WHAT DID HE SAY?
ASIDE FROM SPEAKING AS THOUGH HE'S THE FINAL WORD ON LAW AND ORDER IN THIS TOWN?
HE SAID THAT HE HAD A MORE IMPORTANT MEETING TO ATTEND, AND THAT A H.A.M.M.E.R. AGENT HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO OUR LOCATION TO "KEEP IT QUIET."
"AGENT? OR AGENTS?"
"AGENT. SINGULAR."
ARES. THE GOD OF WAR. LITERALLY.

HOLEE--
I AM NOT A MAN IN THE BUSINESS OF REPEATING MYSELF SO I SUGGEST YOU ALL PAY ATTENTION.
THERE IS A LINE BEFORE ME THAT DEMARCATES WHERE YOU STOP BEING TREATED AS CITIZENS AND START BEING TREATED AS SOLDIERS.
IT IS A LINE THAT ONLY I CAN SEE AND I SWEAR UNTO ALL OF YOU--
--ONCE YOU CROSS IT YOU HAVE DECLARED WAR. AGAINST YOUR CITY, AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENT...AND AGAINST ME.
AND MAKE NO MISTAKE: I LOVE TO FIGHT WARS.
THE TERRIFYING THING? SOMEDAY SOON?
SOMEONE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BRING THAT MONSTER DOWN.

NORMAN.
I'M NOT A FAN OF BEING KEPT WAITING.
EMMA FROST. HI.
AND I UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE WAIT-- BUT THE MAYOR NEEDED TO BE PUT IN HER PLACE. YOU LOOK FANTASTIC, BY THE WAY.
NOT SCOTTY'S NIGHT, HUH?
SCOTT DOESN'T GET TO CONTROL ALL MUTANT BEHAVIOR BY MANDATE OR FIAT.
THAT'S TOO BAD, BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF LEADER YOU PEOPLE NEED RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE PLAN.
WHAT PLAN?
THE NEW PLAN.


OUR DEAL WAS YOU KEEP MUTANTS QUIET AND I KEEP OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS, BUT SCOTTY BOY COULDN'T QUITE MANAGE THAT.
I NEED A TEAM OF MUTANTS AS THE FACE OF LAW AND ORDER. AND THAT MEANS YOUR PEOPLE, PARDON THE EXPRESSION, NEED A LEADER WHO CAN LEAD.
SOMEONE WITH NOT JUST THE SKILL...BUT THE WILL.
OSBORN, THIS--
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.
SURE YOU DO. JUST USE YOUR IMAGINATION.
AND THINK VERY, VERY BIG.
OH, MY...

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT OUT. I APPRECIATE HOW DIFFICULT TRAVEL IS FOR YOU ALL TONIGHT, AND I ASSURE YOU WE WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED IF IT WASN'T IMPORTANT.


"FIRST THINGS FIRST: I'M HERE TO INFORM YOU ALL THAT MARTIAL LAW HAS BEEN DECLARED IN SAN FRANCISCO, OAKLAND, AND BERKELEY."
LET'S GET DOWN THERE. NOW.
HELP THE COPS AND KEEP TEMPERS LOW.

"AS OF NOW, PEACEKEEPING IN BAY AREA IS UNDER H.A.M.M.E.R. JURISDICTION.

"MUTANT RINGLEADERS ARE BEING DETAINED AND KEPT OFF THE STREETS."
HELL... HELLO?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HELLO?

WE'RE CLASSIFYING SCOTT SUMMERS, AS A PERSON OF INTEREST IN THE RIOTING THIS EVENING.
WE'D LIKE TO BRING HIM IN, ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHY HE, AS SELF-APPOINTED LEADER OF THE MUTANT RACE, LET HIS PEOPLE DESTROY YOUR CITY TONIGHT.
I HAVE SOMEONE ELSE WITH ME HERE TONIGHT WITH THE SAME QUESTIONS--

DON'T MOVE!
FINGERS TOGETHER BEHIND YOUR HEAD! FINGERS TOGETHER BEHIND YOUR HEAD!
MR. SUMMERS--!

I--I CAN JUST BARELY HEAR--
ARE YOU SPEAKING IN MY HEAD?

MY NAME IS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER....
...AND I WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICALLY DISTANCE MYSELF, AND THE WORK OF MY SCHOOL, THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IN ANY OF ITS PERMUTATIONS, FROM THIS QUITE FRANKLY INSANE COURSE OF ACTION MR. SUMMERS HAS TAKEN.
AND, SCOTT... IF YOU'RE LISTENING...
...TURN YOURSELF IN.
YOU'RE ONLY CAUSING MORE HARM TO OUR KIND BY RUNNING.
NOT MY USUAL COLOR BUT I SUPPOSE IT'LL HAVE TO DO.
IT'S ME, HENRY. IT'S CHARLES XAVIER.
THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO MY MIND.
THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING TO US ALL HERE... THEY'RE TAKING AWAY OUR POWERS...

UTOPIA

CHAPTER TWO
UNCANNY X-MEN #513

SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL:
"MUTANT PROBLEMS, MUTANT SOLUTIONS.
"SAN FRANCISCO IS BURNING TONIGHT.
CITY HALL
TRASK OUT OF SF!
PROP X = HATE
"AND IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PROFESSOR?"
FISHERMAN'S WHARF:
ABSOLUTELY, DIRECTOR OSBORN.
VIOLENCE WAS NEITHER MY MANDATE NOR MISSION. I BELIEVE HUMANS AND MUTANTS CAN PEACEFULLY COEXIST.
HAYES VALLEY:
"BUT A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER IS ESSENTIAL ON THE PART OF BOTH PARTIES.
"INDEED, I WOULD ARGUE THIS IS THE CORNERSTONE FOR ANY SOCIAL ORDER."
CIVIC CENTER:
"I AGREE, PROFESSOR. I THINK ALL LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE DO.
"SO PLEASE LET ME REITERATE MY EARLIER REQUEST. SCOTT SUMMERS, PLEASE CALL FOR AN END TO THE VIOLENCE YOU'VE PROVOKED IN YOUR PEOPLE AND STAND DOWN AS DE FACTO LEADER."

SORRY.
AAGGGKK--
HNNNN
"YOU'VE PROVEN YOUR RADICAL, SEPARATIST NOTIONS OF LEADERSHIP ARE JUST AS OUT OF TOUCH WITH MAINSTREAM AMERICA AS THE EXTREME MUTOPHOBIA ESPOUSED BY SIMON TRASK AND HIS FOLLOWERS...
--HEFF--
"BY STANDING DOWN, YOU'LL HAVE PROVEN THAT YOU AND YOUR KIND ARE WILLING TO WORK TOWARD A PEACEFUL END TO THIS EXTRAORDINARY NIGHT. PROFESSOR XAVIER AGREES WITH ME, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?"
"THAT'S RIGHT, DIRECTOR OSBORN. AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PSYCHIC PRESENCES, I THINK I'D BE ABLE TO DETECT ANY ILL WILL YOU MIGHT BE HARBORING TOWARDS MUTANTS."
WE LOST HIM. POLK STREET, HEADING EAST.
"AND, SCOTT-- OR ANY MUTANTS HEARING MY VOICE-- I'M HERE TO TELL YOU--

THE CASTRO:
"NORMAN OSBORN AND THE AVENGERS MEAN NO HARM TO ANY MUTANT, ANYWHERE.
"THEIR ONLY CARE IS FOR UPHOLDING THE LAW AND FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC, REGARDLESS OF THEIR CHROMOSOMAL MAKEUP."
THE EMBARCADERO:
GO AHEAD.
MAKE MY DAY.
"ALL OF MY PEOPLE--AVENGERS AND H.A.M.M.E.R. ALIKE--ARE FOLLOWING STRICT NON-VIOLENT METHODS OF CROWD AND RIOT CONTROL, CORRECT, PROFESSOR?"
C'MERE.
"THAT'S CORRECT. NO ONE IS TO BE HARASSED OR ACCOSTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. H.A.M.M.E.R. AND THE AVENGERS REALLY ARE HERE TO QUELL VIOLENCE AND RESTORE ORDER."
THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND CLEAR, CALM VOICE IN THESE TRYING TIMES, PROFESSOR.
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, NORMAN.
WE WON'T BE TAKING ANY QUESTIONS--I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.

"WE'VE STILL GOT A LOT OF CLEANING UP TO DO."

I'M GONNA KILL YOU.

AAAGGGGGGHHHHH--

DAMMIT.

DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT--

GOING MY WAY?

BOBBY DRAKE--ICEMAN. ORIGINAL X-MAN. INCORRUPTIBLE. INDEFATIGABLE.

THIS--

THIS IS MADNESS!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT YET...

SAN FRANCISCO BAY
ALCATRAZ ISLAND:
WEST COAST HEADQUARTERS--
H.A.M.M.E.R.
THE CLOCKS ARE STRIKING THIRTEEN, HENRY.
HENRY?
ARE YOU THERE, HENRY?
YES, I HEARD. AN ORWELL REFERENCE. 1984. THOUGHT POLICE. I GET IT.
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT? I CAN SENSE...I CAN ONLY SENSE VAGUE...DREAD. HOSTILITY.
YOU REALLY ARE THE PLANET'S MOST FORMIDABLE PSYCHIC, AREN'T YOU?
NEXT YOU'LL TELL ME I HAVE TROUBLES IN LOVE AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK AND THE WAY I LOOK...
I SUPPOSE THAT'S FAIR. I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WOULD TRUST ME EITHER.
OKAY, "CHARLES." OKAY.
I'M WONDERING IF OTHER MUTANTS WERE ARRESTED AND IF SO, WHO. IF THERE WERE FULL-BLOWN RIOTS. IF ANYONE WAS HURT. AND IF THE X-MEN KNOW WHERE I AM.
AND, YES, I'M TRYING TO DECIDE IF OSBORN HAS PUT A PLANT DOWN HERE TO SCREW WITH ME.
THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU, HENRY.

THE OMEGA MACHINE, HENRY.
THEY'RE TAKING YOU TO THE OMEGA MACHINE.
INSIDE
SCREAMING
AHH. DR. MCCOY.
SO NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US.
HENRY PHILLIP McCOY II—DARK BEAST. WELL, ANOTHER BEAST. FROM ANOTHER TIMELINE.
TAKE A SEAT.

I ASSUME YOU'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY DOSSIER X AND MY OUTLINE FOR RESTORING LAW AND ORDER TO THE BAY AREA.
OF COURSE.
I'M A PROFESSIONAL.
THEN WHAT SAY WE GET TO WORK.
ARE YOU READY TO MEET YOUR TEAM?
MY TEAM YOU SAY?
WELL, I'D RATHER DO IT NOW THAN AFTER THE CITY BURNS ITSELF TO THE GROUND.
LET'S GO.
THERE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

TANDY BOWEN—HEALER. ENERGY BLADES, HEALER. FORMER RUNAWAY AND DRUG ADDICT.

JY JOHNSON—CLOAK. DIMENSIONAL TELEPORTATION. FORMER RUNAWAY AND DRUG ADDICT.

DAKEN—WOLVERINE. SON OF WOLVERINE. CURRENTLY SERVING ON NORMAN'S AVENGERS.

MICHAEL POINTER—WEAPON OMEGA. ENERGY ABSORPTION AND BLASTING. CANADIAN.

RALPH MONTGOMERY—RANKIN. ADAPTS POWERS OF NEARBY MUTANTS. OLD SCHOOL BAD GUY READY FOR THE BIG TIME.

WELL NOW. LET ME MAKE THE INTRODUCTIONS.

"RANKIN'S BEEN A WASHOUT IN THE PAST BUT HIS POWER SET AND EXPERIENCE MAKES HIM A STRATEGIC GET."

ARE THERE CAMERAS HERE? ARE WE BEING WATCHED?

"ADD TO THAT THE URGE TO PLEASE NOT UNLIKE A WHIPPED *DOG* AND YOU'VE GOT A REAL POWER PLAYER.

"MS. *BOWEN* HERE IS A GREAT SHOULDABEEN. HER HEALING GIFTS ARE MORE PROFOUND THAN HER OFFENSIVE POWERS."

BETTER NOT BE.

PERV.

"AND HER BIGGEST ASSET IS THAT SHE GUARANTEED THE PRESENCE OF..."

LET HIM LOOK. I DON'T CARE.

"...THE SURLY MR. JOHNSON. HIS TELEPORTATION ALONE DURING THE *INVASION* WOULD'VE EARNED HIM MEDALS AND COMMENDATIONS IF HE HAD BEEN STREET-LEGAL.

"NEITHER OF THEM WANT TO BE HERE, BUT YOU'LL BRING THEM AROUND.

"DAKEN AKIHIRO IS A STRATEGIC LOANER FROM MY AVENGERS. HIS Q NUMBERS ARE ASTRONOMICAL AND I WANT HIM TO BE THE GATEWAY BRAND BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS.

"TURNS OUT PEOPLE *LOVE* WOLVERINE. CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIM. WHO KNEW?

"BESIDES, HE'S THE OFFENSIVE MUSCLE YOU'LL NEED WHEN AND IF HIS *FATHER* COMES CALLING."

OOH, BIG TOUGH GUY BACK THERE, HUH? GOOD TO KNOW.

"OMEGA IS MICHAEL POINTER. HE'S DONE SOME GOOD UP NORTH AND HIS POWERS--"

HEY. HEY. HEY, IS IT READY? IS IT--

IT'S READY, POINTER. RELAX.

"WELL, MR. MCCOY THERE--*OUR* MR. MCCOY, I SHOULD SAY, RATHER THAN *YOURS*--HAS WORKED OUT A SYSTEM TO UPGRADE HIS POWERS EXPONENTIALLY IN A WAY THAT TIES INTO ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS..."

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER: FOUNDER OF THE X-MEN AND THE CHARLES XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE BUNCH--
OH, THAT'S IT...
YOU'RE NOT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER. YOU MIGHT FOOL THE RUBES AND YOU MIGHT HAVE EVEN FOOLED OSBORN BUT IT'S NOT FOOLING ME.
OMEGA CLASS TELEPATHS CAN SNIFF EACH OTHER OUT.
DARKHOLME. KNOCK IT OFF.
THANK GOD. SITTING THAT STILL WAS GETTING BORING.
IS PROFESSOR X EVEN IN A WHEELCHAIR ANYMORE?
RAVEN DARKHOLME--MYSTIQUE: SHAPE-SHIFTER EXTRAORDINAIRE, FREQUENTLY MISTAKEN FOR DEAD.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I DON'T TRUST HER AS FAR AS I CAN THROW HER AND, DARLING, I CAN THROW TRASH LIKE MYSTIQUE A VERY LONG WAY.
YOU REALLY THINK WE'D LET A SHAPE-SHIFTING CRIMINAL WITH A RECORD LONGER THAN MY ARM JUST WALTZ AROUND THE JOINT?
OUR DEAL WITH THE DECEPTIVE MS. DARKHOLME WAS PREDICATED ON THIS: AN EXPERIMENTAL BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUE WE'VE HAD SUCCESS WITH IN OTHERS OF HER ILK.
IN THE BLOOD, YOU SEE. TINY MACHINES. CAPABLE OF EXECUTING... CORRECTIVES...AS I SEE FIT.
STARTING AT DEBILITATING ELECTROSHOCK AND ENDING AT, WELL...
DETONATION.
SHE'S A HUMAN BOMB.
I'M YOUR HUMAN BOMB, AND I KNOW IT. IF I GET OUT OF LINE, YOU GET TO LET ME KNOW.
SHE WON'T BE A FIELD AGENT. I NEED HER STRICTLY FOR P.R. PURPOSES. SHE'S THE CARROT. YOUR TEAM IS THE STICK.

THIS IS YOUR TEAM, NOT MINE.
THESE FOLKS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE BUT ANY VALUE-ADDS YOU MIGHT HAVE--
JUST ONE.
ONE?
ONE.
HE'S HERE NOW.
KING OF RUINED KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. MUTANT.
NORMAN.
NICELY PLAYED, MS. FROST.
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.
MY TEAM. MY WAY.
"MUTANT PROBLEMS, MUTANT SOLUTIONS."

...AND THESE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-MEN ARE THAT SOLUTION.
I HAVE MY HANDS FULL, OF COURSE, LEADING THE AVENGERS, SO MISS EMMA FROST WILL HANDLE LEADERSHIP OF THIS FIELD TEAM UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND WISDOM OF CHARLES XAVIER.
EMMA?
MY LIFE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO THE EDUCATION, PROTECTION, AND TRAINING OF MUTANT CHILDREN. TO KEEPING MY PEOPLE--OUR PEOPLE--ALL PEOPLE--SAFE.
IN SAFETY THERE IS SECURITY. AND THAT'S THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS TEAM.
TO REGAIN, REBUILD, AND RESTORE THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAY AREA, NOT JUST IN THE X-MEN, BUT ALSO IN ALL MUTANTKIND.
AND FROM THERE BEGIN REBUILDING--THROUGH DEEDS RATHER THAN RHETORIC--THE FRAYED BOND THAT TIES HUMANITY AND MUTANTS TOGETHER AS ONE.
LIVE
TO START WITH, AND WITH NORMAN'S BLESSING, WE'RE IMPLEMENTING A CITYWIDE CURFEW FOR ALL CITIZENS--HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE--EFFECTIVE FROM SUNDOWN UNTIL SUNRISE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE.
NO ONE BUT THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE STREETS COME NIGHTFALL LEST THEY FACE IMMEDIATE ARREST AND INCARCERATION.
FGNY

...WE HOPE THIS WILL PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED...COOLING DOWN PERIOD...FOR ANY FIRES, LITERAL OR METAPHORICAL, THAT'VE BROKEN OUT OVER THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS...
WHETHER STOKED BY SCOTT SUMMERS OR SIMON TRASK, THE BAY AREA NEEDS NEITHER OF THESE TWO POLES OF EXTREMITY.
TT.
ANY PAIN, MR. TRASK? DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
NOT A WINK. HERE, BOY, TELL ME SOMETHING--
THE IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW IS TO MAINTAIN CALM.
DO YOU THINK MY MESSAGE OF HOPE AND SAFETY FOR ALL HUMANITY IS EXTREME?
WHOA WHOA WHOA--
TO STOP THE VIOLENCE AND PANIC OF LAST NIGHT.
I--
I THINK--
AND GET THIS CITY BACK TO NORMAL...
I THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO THINK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND ITS CITIZENS FEELING SAFE AND SOUND.
CHILDREN. HEAR ME NOW.
RISE.
SHEILA? ARE YOU OKAY?
HAIGH NOT HATE

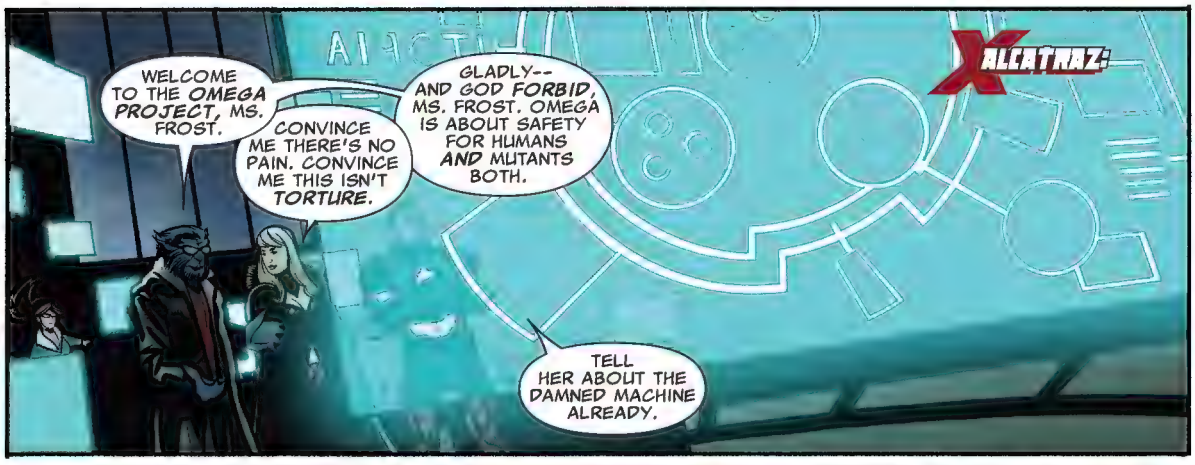
WE OF COURSE HAVE SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THE MUTANTS IN RESIDENCE IN THE MARIN HEADLANDS.
S.W.A.T. AND H.A.M.M.E.R. AGENTS ARE WATCHING THE FACILITY CAREFULLY TO INSURE NO ROGUE MUTANTS ATTEMPT TO INSTIGATE OR INCITE ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE...
SCOTT, DO YOU--
SHH.
BUT-- SHE--DO YOU REALLY THINK--
PETER. SHH. I NEED TO HEAR THIS.
...AND ONCE AGAIN DIRECTOR OSBORN STOPPED JUST SHORT OF ISSUING AN ARREST WARRANT FOR SO-CALLED MUTANT LEADER SCOTT SUMMERS, SEEN TODAY FLEEING THE RIOT'S EPICENTER...
THAT'S GREAT, THOUGH. A CURFEW. BRILLIANT STRATEGY.
I MEAN, IF WE OBEY, HE WINS, AND IF WE DON'T, HE WINS. IT'S A FANTASTIC PLAY.
HE? DON'T YOU MEAN "SHE?"
SHE'S A FASCIST! THIS WHOLE THING IS FASCIST!
DEEP BREATHS, CESS. EMMA PLAYED US OUT OF POSITION THIS ROUND. I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM HER.
THE GAME IS FAR FROM OVER.
BUT DON'T YOU, LIKE, LACK THE...LIKE, THE MORAL AUTHORITY RIGHT NOW?
I MEAN... THEY'RE MAKING YOU SOUND LIKE A CRIMINAL.
ARE WE GONNA GET ARRESTED?
AND DID YOU GUYS BREAK UP OR WHAT?
LIVE
...LET'S OPEN THE FLOOR TO SOME QUESTIONS.

WHERE ARE MUTANTS THAT'RE BEING ARRESTED BEING DETAINED? ARE THEY WITH A HUMAN PRISON POPULACE OR ARE THEY ISOLATED?
AND ARE THERE MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THEIR POWERS CAN'T BE USED TO ENABLE ESCAPE OR TO CAUSE FURTHER HARM TO THE PUBLIC GOOD?
HI, JENNY, GREAT QUESTION. AND ONE THAT, DUE TO THE SECURITY OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, WE CAN'T ANSWER IN EXACT SPECIFICS RIGHT NOW.
MUTANT DETAINEES ARE BEING KEPT IN A FACILITY THAT MANAGES THEIR POWERS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE GENERAL POPULACE.
MUTANT LAWBREAKERS WILL BE SAFELY AND HUMANELY DISARMED FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR CAPTURE. NEXT QUESTION.
LOOK! SHE KNOWS. DUDE, SHE TOTALLY KNOWS. LOOK AT HER. SHE'S INTO IT. SHE AGREES.
SO WHAT IF SHE KNOWS? IT'S NOT EXACTLY WRONG, IS IT?
I MEAN, LIKE, IF YOU HAVE A GUN AND YOU GET ARRESTED THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU TAKE IT TO JAIL WITH YOU OR WHATEVER.
YOU BREAK THE LAW, YOU BREAK THE LAW. JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE THE LAW DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW IT, ESPECIALLY IF IT MEANS PEOPLE CAN GET HURT.
HE'S RIGHT. ANOLE, YOU'RE RIGHT.
RIGHT NOW, TODAY, AND LATER TONIGHT, OSBORN'S WORD IS LAW.
...
YOU MEAN YOU'RE JUST GONNA WAIT, RIGHT?
I HATE IT AS MUCH AS THE REST OF YOU BUT HE'S RUNNING THE BOARD RIGHT NOW. UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE, THE PLAN IS TO WATCH. TO STUDY. AND TO PLAN.

THE SUNSET:
GENE POOL
OPEN
SO THIS IS CRAP. I KNOW IT, YOU KNOW IT; IT'S CRAP.
THE QUESTION IS--ARE WE GONNA JUST SIT HERE AND TAKE IT?
HELL NO, WE'RE NOT.
SO I BEEN OUT THERE, SINCE THIS ALL GOT STARTED, AND FRIENDS, I CAN TELL YOU THIS FOR REAL:
THE HUMANS ARE DONE WITH OUR KIND. THEY'RE ALL OUT FOR BLOOD.
DAMN STRAIGHT.
BEN HAMMIL--MATCH. FIRE GENERATION. ANGER ISSUES.
LORELEI TRAVIS. PREHENSILE HAIR. "DANCER."
DOMINIKOS IOANNIS PETRAKIS--AVALANCHE. VIBRATION GENERATION. OWNS THE BAR.
ADAM NERAMANI--ADAM X. INFLICTS SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.
JEREMIAH MULDOON--MELD. LIQUEFICATION OF METAL; EX-MILITARY.
ROBERTO DA COSTA--SUNSPOT. SOLAR ENERGY MANIPULATION. KNOWS BETTER THAN TO BE HERE.
MINE, YOURS, THEY DON'T CARE, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE--THEY'RE GONNA ROUND US UP AND PUT US IN CAMPS THIS TIME.
AND I AIN'T GONNA GO WITHOUT A FIGHT. YOU WITH ME?

LET'S &#@% SOME $%#@ UP, BROS!
LET'S GET &#@%$# EXTREME!
NO.
CALM DOWN, JUST FOR A SECOND.
WE GO OUT LIKE A GOON SQUAD AND THEY'LL JUST CRUSH US.
KID'S RIGHT. AND, TRUST ME, AS SOMEONE THAT'S BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW MORE THAN ONCE--
YOU GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THE BOOT IN AND YOU PROVE THEM RIGHT, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
THEY SCREAM AND HOLLER THAT MUTANTS ARE MONSTERS AND WE GO OUT AND ACT LIKE MONSTERS AND IT...IT...
EXACTLY. WE CAN'T--I MEAN, LOOK, I WANT TO GO OUT THERE AND SMASH THESE FASCISTS IN THE FACE AS MUCH AS ANYBODY, BUT--BUT THAT'S HOW THEY WOULD ACT.
THAT'S WHAT THEY DO. WE'RE THE EVOLVED, RIGHT? LET'S ACT LIKE IT.
THE SECOND WE BREAK CURFEW, WE'RE ALL GOING TO JAIL. WHICH I'M FINE WITH BUT, DAMMIT, IT'S GOTTA COUNT.
WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT AND EXERCISE OUR RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND GET ARRESTED IN AS HIGHLY VISIBLE A MANNER AS POSSIBLE AND LET EVERYONE SEE WHAT'S COMING IF WE DON'T DEMAND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.
HERE.
RIGHT IN THE HEART OF IT. A PUBLIC SPACE, MUNICIPAL SPACE, NOT PRIVATE PROPERTY, SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE AND BUILDINGS.
IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE.
HERE.
Union Square Park
200
Geary St

X UNION SQUARE:


X ALCATRAZ:
WELCOME TO THE OMEGA PROJECT, MS. FROST.
CONVINCE ME THERE'S NO PAIN. CONVINCE ME THIS ISN'T TORTURE.
GLADLY-- AND GOD FORBID, MS. FROST. OMEGA IS ABOUT SAFETY FOR HUMANS AND MUTANTS BOTH.
TELL HER ABOUT THE DAMNED MACHINE ALREADY.

"THE OMEGA MACHINE, MS. FROST, IS A MARVEL AND, I ASSURE YOU, COMPLETELY HUMANE. THINK OF IT LIKE ADDING A SPEED GOVERNOR TO AN ENGINE. JOIN ME, IF YOU WILL, AND I'LL GIVE YOU A SHORT TOUR OF THE FACIL--

"DIRECTOR OSBORN! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING."
--PORTING LIVE FROM UNION SQUARE WHERE...
WHOA. HEY.
HEY!

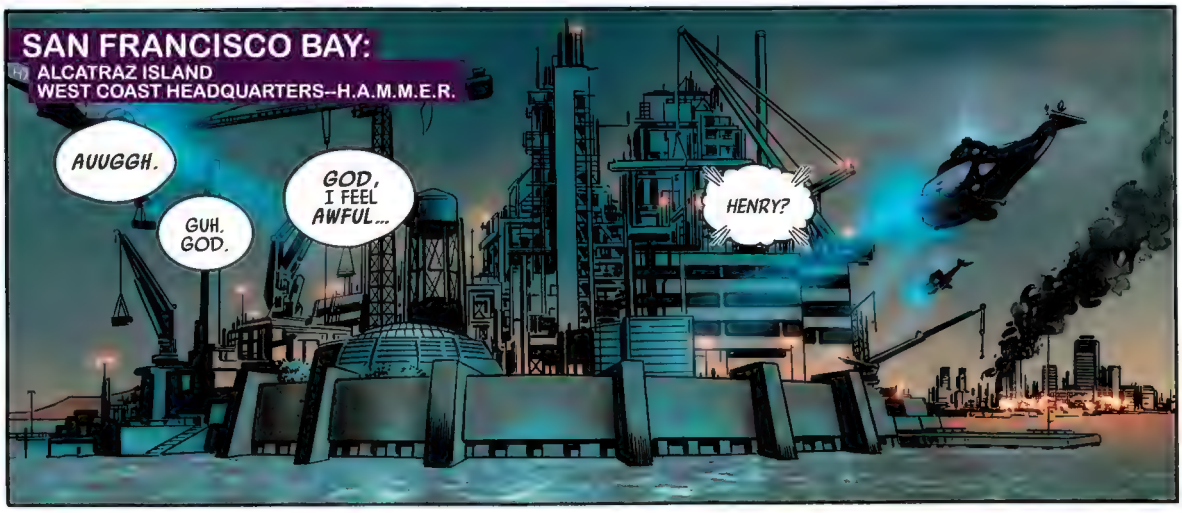
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING!
LET'S LIGHT IT UP--
HELLION, DON'T DO THIS.
PLEASE DON'T BE DOING THIS.

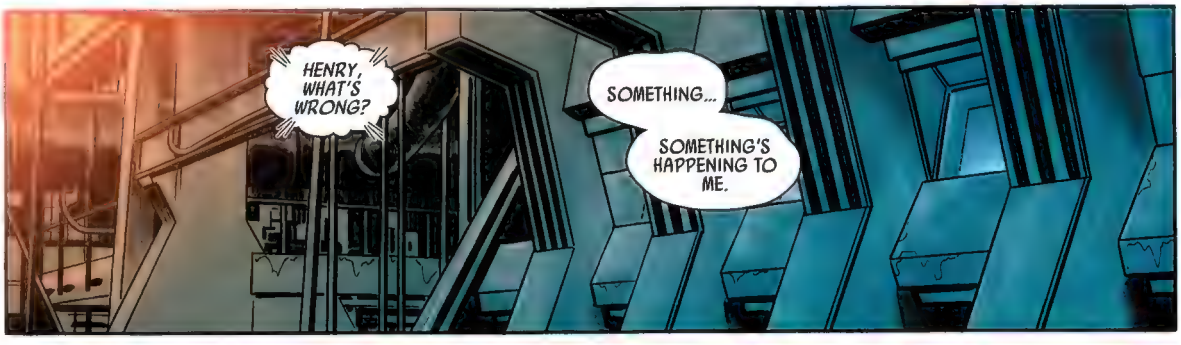
LIVE
NORMAN OSBORN AND SIMON TRASK WANT TO MAKE US CRIMINALS? FINE.
THEN LET HIM AND HIS BROWNSHIRT TRAITORS GET DOWN HERE AND ARREST US.
LIVE FROM UNION SQUARE
WELL. "TEAM."
APPARENTLY A CLUSTER OF MUTANT AGITATORS HAVE CONGREGATED IN UNION SQUARE IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CURFEW.
THEY'RE DARING US TO ARREST THEM.
SO ARREST THEM WE SHALL.
WE SHALL BE SWIFT AND SAFE, HEROIC AND HUMANE. AND DON'T FORGET:
THERE ARE ABOUT TEN THOUSAND TELEVISION CAMERAS AIMED AT YOU. SO DON'T GET CUTE.
NEXT STOP, UNION SQUARE.

MR. KELLER--
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
LIVE
OKAY, EMMA.
OKAY.
I THINK IT'S TIME I HAD A TALK WITH NORMAN OSBORN.

UTOPIA

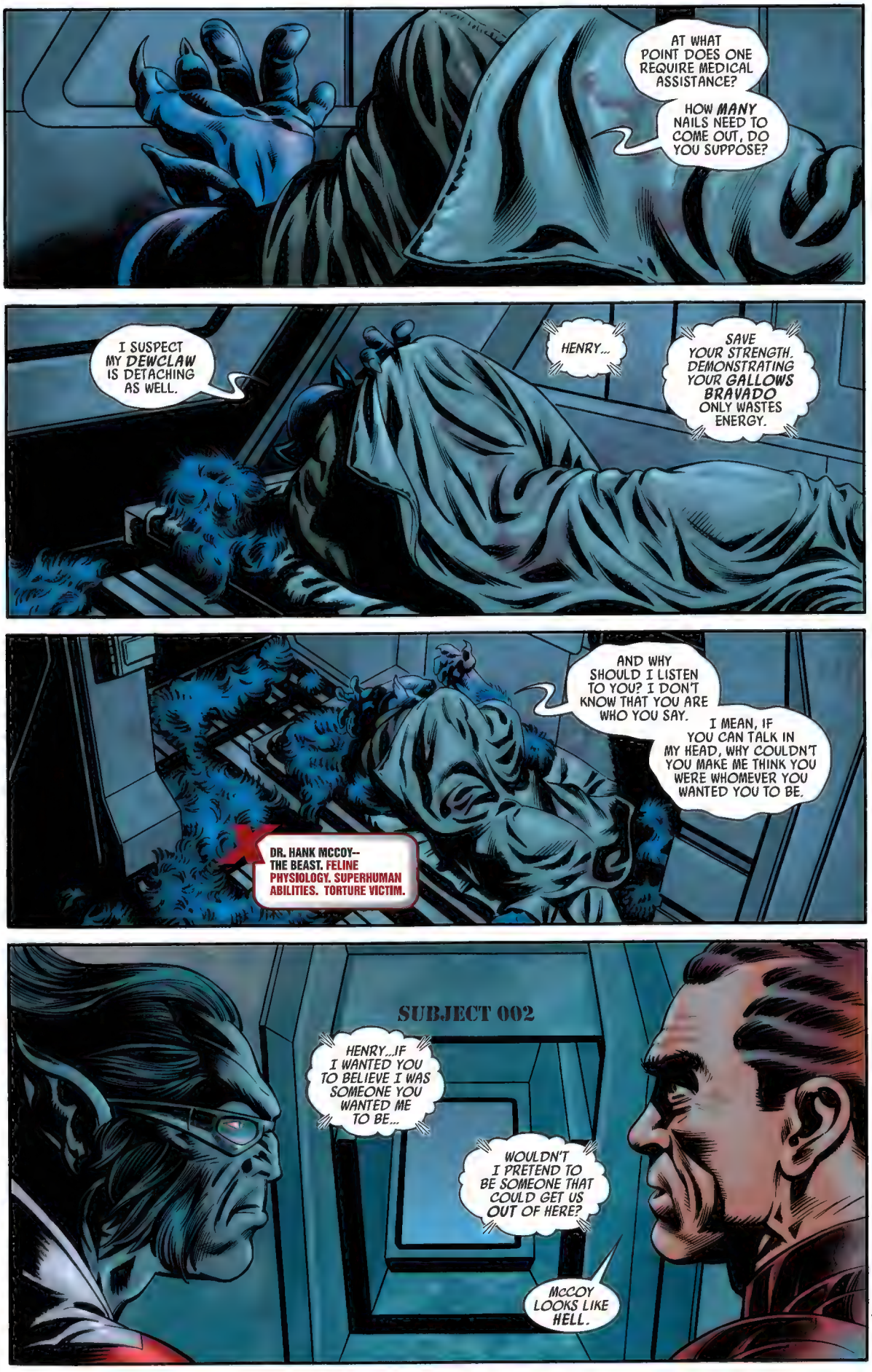
CHAPTER THREE
DARK AVENGERS #7


SAN FRANCISCO BAY:
ALCATRAZ ISLAND
WEST COAST HEADQUARTERS--H.A.M.M.E.R.
AUUGGH.
GUH. GOD.
GOD, I FEEL AWFUL...
HENRY?


HENRY, WHAT'S WRONG?
SOMETHING...
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME.

ARE YOU HURT, HENRY?
DO YOU NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION?
PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER--
THE FOREMOST PSYCHIC OF HIS AGE. GENIUS. PRISONER.

MY FINGERNAILS JUST FELL OUT.
SO YOU TELL ME, PROFESSOR.


AT WHAT POINT DOES ONE REQUIRE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE?
HOW MANY NAILS NEED TO COME OUT, DO YOU SUPPOSE?
I SUSPECT MY DEWCLAW IS DETACHING AS WELL.
HENRY...
SAVE YOUR STRENGTH. DEMONSTRATING YOUR GALLOWS BRAVADO ONLY WASTES ENERGY.
AND WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU? I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY.
I MEAN, IF YOU CAN TALK IN MY HEAD, WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE ME THINK YOU WERE WHOMEVER YOU WANTED YOU TO BE.
DR. HANK MCCOY-- THE BEAST. FELINE PHYSIOLOGY. SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES. TORTURE VICTIM.
SUBJECT 002
HENRY...IF I WANTED YOU TO BELIEVE I WAS SOMEONE YOU WANTED ME TO BE...
WOULDN'T I PRETEND TO BE SOMEONE THAT COULD GET US OUT OF HERE?
MCCOY LOOKS LIKE HELL.

YES, WELL...
THE OMEGA MACHINE IS AN ONGOING EXPERIMENT SUBJECT TO CONSTANT REFINEMENT.
EACH MUTANT WILL REACT TO IT DIFFERENTLY.
MUTANT GENETICIST AND TORTURE AFICIONADO.
THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.
YOU PROMISED ME YOUR OMEGA MACHINE WOULD PAINLESSLY AND HARMLESSLY SAP MUTANTS OF THEIR POWERS.
THERE IS NO VALUE IN A DEVICE THAT TORTURES THEM INTO USELESSNESS.
NORMAN OSBORN--AKA IRON PATRIOT. DIRECTOR OF H.A.M.M.E.R. SLOWLY BOILING CAULDRON OF INSANITY.
WE DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR REFINEMENTS. I NEED THE MACHINE THAT DOES WHAT YOU SAID IT WOULD DO.
DON'T YOU DARE GIVE ME ORDERS.
THIS MACHINE-- TO CREATE SUCH A THING, SUCH A MIRACLE WITH THE CRUDE TOOLS YOU CONSIDER TECHNOLOGY--
SHUT UP.
YOU WHINE LIKE AN OLD WOMAN THAT CAN'T FIND HER PILLS AT NAPTIME.
I BROUGHT YOU HERE--I'VE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING YOU'VE ASKED FOR--BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SWORE YOU COULD DELIVER.
SO. NOW YOU DELIVER.
OR WE'LL HOOK YOU UP TO THE THING, CRANK IT UP 'TIL THE DIAL COMES OFF AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, HM?
OSBORN'S SUITE:
"REFINEMENTS," BOB. "REFINEMENTS," HE GIVES ME.
IT'S A CRAZY WORLD WE LIVE IN.
HMM.

IT'S OKAY.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
IT LOOKS BAD.
I KNOW.
IT ALWAYS LOOKS BAD.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT LOOKS, BOB. THAT'S JUST YOUR PERCEPTION.
IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE THE WORLD THROUGH MY EYES...
...YOU'D SEE HOW BIG OF A WIN THIS ALL IS.
TRUST ME, BOB. AND TRUST MS. FROST TO DO HER JOB FOR US...

UNION SQUARE:
DON'T BE STUPID. GET YOUR PEOPLE OUT OF HERE.
X
ORGANIC DIAMOND. TELEPATH.
DON'T BE A NAZI. DON'T TELL US WHAT TO DO.
X
JULIAN KELLER--HELLION. TELEKINETIC. YOUTH IN REVOLT.

DRAMA QUEEN.
NO NO NO NO--
YES. SORRY.
LORELEI TRAVIS--LORELEI. PREHENSILE HAIR. OUTGUNNED.
DARKFORCE TELEPORTER. NOT REALLY A TEAM PLAYER.
AIN'T GOIN' OUT LIKE THAT.
ADAM NERAMANI--ADAM X. MUTANT SUPERSWORDSMAN; INFLICTS COMBUSTION.
ROCK ON, EDDIE VEDDER.
LIGHT DAGGER, HEALER, RECOVERING ADDICT AND TERMINAL LONER.
POWERS OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE X-MEN. MIMICS OTHER POWERS IN PROXIMITY. REALLY HAPPY TO BE HERE.
COOL OFF, HAMMIL.
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
BEN HAMMIL--MATCH. FIRE CONTROL. NOT SO MUCH TEMPER CONTROL.

--!
YIELD.
OMEGA SIPHON OF MUTANT ENERGY. BLASTER OF MUTANT ENERGY.
MUH
JEREMIAH MULDOON--MELD. ABILITY TO RESHAPE AND CONTROL METAL.
YOU. HELMET.
C'MON C'MON C'MON C'MON--
DOMINIKOS IOANNIS PETRAKIS--AVALANCHE. EARTHQUAKE GENERATION, SHOCKWAVE MANIPULATION. TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY HE'S THE ONE THAT HAS TO DEAL WITH WOLVERINE.
AMATEUR.
WELL. THE SON OF WOLVERINE. EAGER.
OH MY GO--

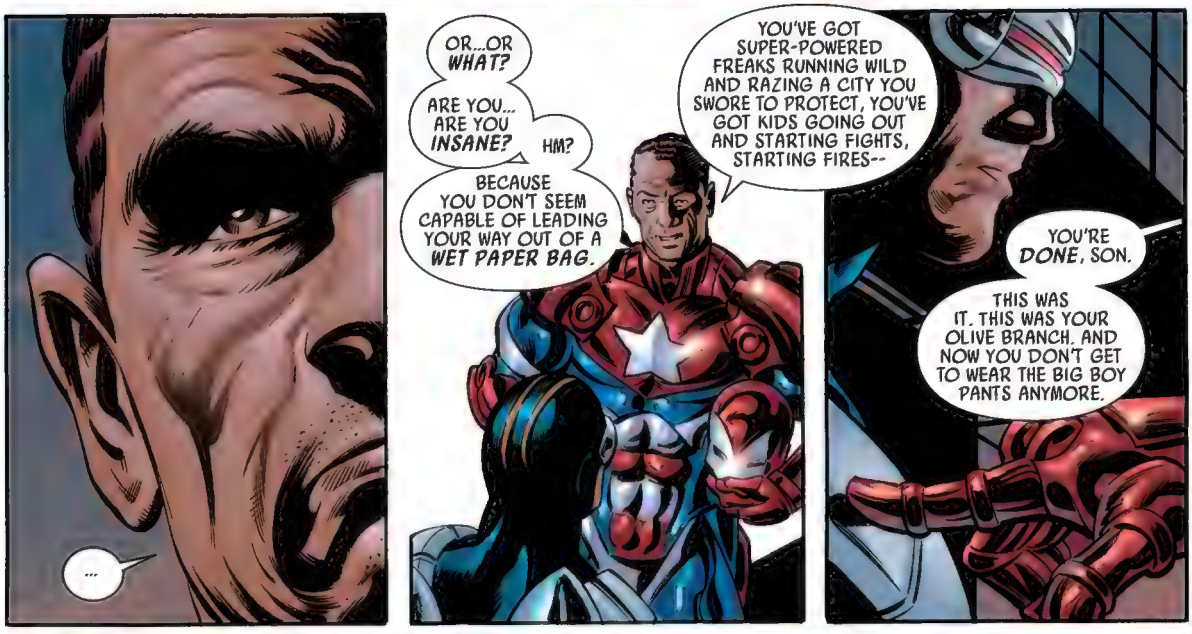
--D!
NON-LETHAL FORCE.
HE WAS TRYING TO KILL ME--
I DON'T CARE, I SAID NON-LETHAL--
HA!
IMPERIUS REX!
KING OF THE SEAS.
--GRRRAHHH--
ROBERTO DA COSTA--SUNSPOT. POWERED BY SOLAR ENERGY. STRONG AND ANGRY.

SILENCE.
DABBIT!
YOU BROGE MY NODE, MAN--
--NNNOOOOOO--
SO THAT'S IT? I'M THE LAST MAN STANDING?
THEN COME ON, PIGS.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING.
YES, THEY ARE.
AND WHAT THEY SEE IS A GROUP OF HEROES BRINGING DOWN A BUNCH OF SUPER-POWERED HOOLIGANS THAT TRIED TO DESTROY A CITY PARK.

ALCATRAZ:
INCOMING! INCOMING!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
HOLY--
EASY THERE, SOLDIER.
I COME IN PEACE.
SCOTT SUMMERS--CYCLOPS. LEADER OF THE X-MEN. OWNER OF A JETPACK.
HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN--
MR. SUMMERS. YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO GET A HOLD OF.
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU THIS EVENING?
TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER.
LET A DANGEROUS MUTANT EXTREMIST INTO H.A.M.M.E.R.'S WEST COAST BASE OF OPERATIONS, MR. SUMMERS? DON'T BE FOOLISH.
DIRECTOR OSBORN WILL COME TO YOU.
VICTORIA HAND. RIGHT HAND OF NORMAN OSBORN. THE WOMAN BEHIND THE MAN BEHIND H.A.M.M.E.R.

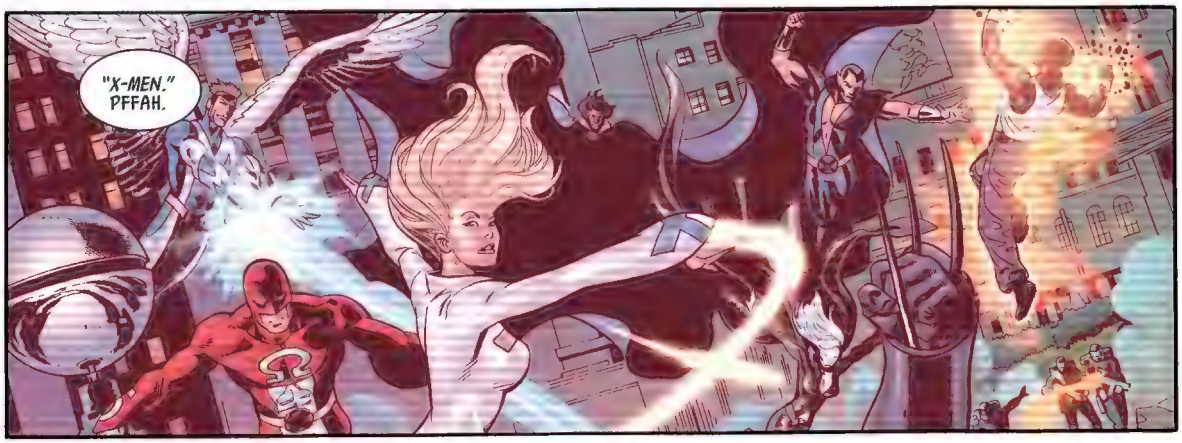
MS. HAND. THANK YOU.
FELLAS. PARDON ME.
SCOTT.
I'M NORMAN OSBORN.
YEAH.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS, SCOTTY.
THERE'S STILL TIME, THERE'S STILL POLITICAL CAPITAL TO BE SPENT AND GOOD WILL TO BE USED.
WE CAN END ALL THIS CRAZY STUFF RIGHT HERE AND NOW, JUST YOU AND ME. THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US ISN'T SO GREAT.
SEE, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL. YOU'RE THE LEADER OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE AND THAT--
WELL, HELL, I JUST RUN A GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND I KNOW I HAVE MY DAMN HANDS FULL.
SCOTTY BOY, THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, THE PROBLEMS OF MUTANTS AND MUTANT-KIND ARE--
SURRENDER.
...
WHAT?

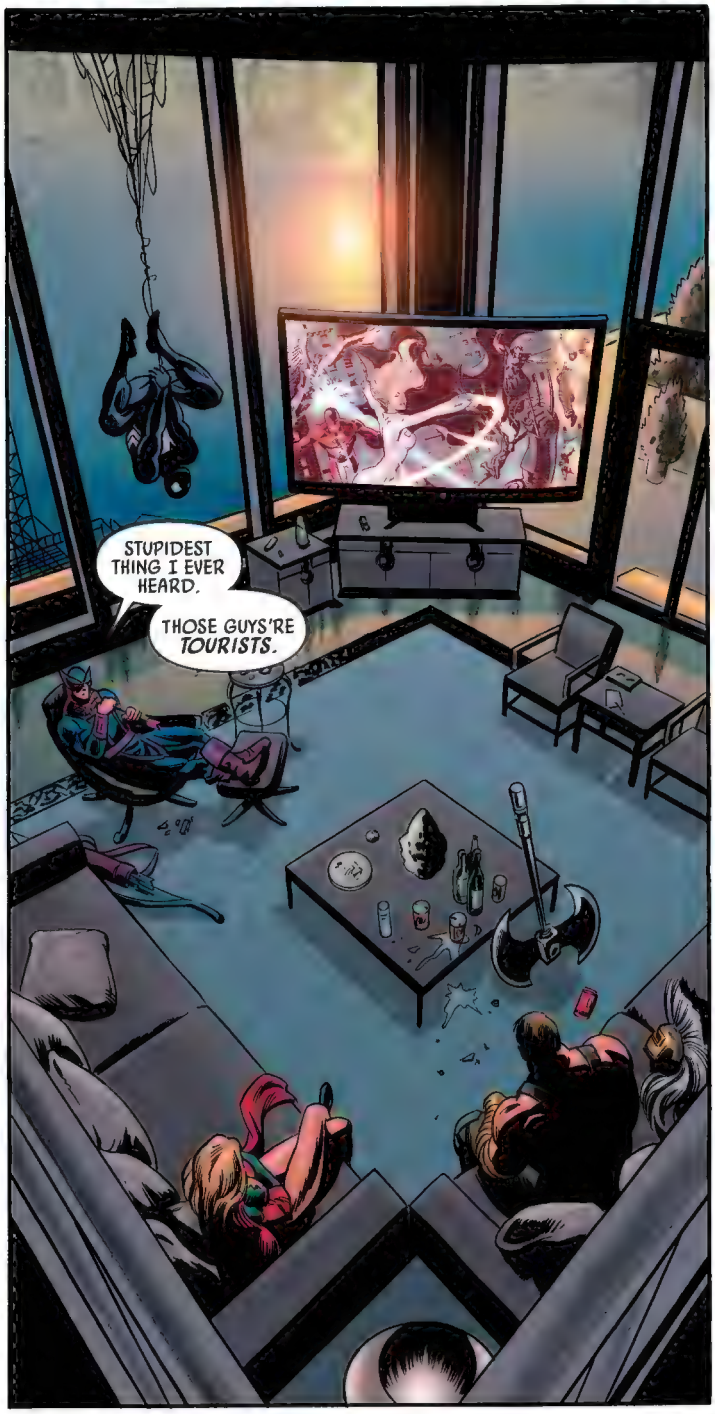
SURRENDER, WITHDRAW, PULL OUT, RETREAT, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT.
YOU'VE GOT THE RIOTERS UNDER CONTROL BY NOW, OR YOU SOON WILL. GET THE FIRES OUT AND THE CURFEW TO RUN QUIETLY TOMORROW NIGHT, AND THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF MY TOWN.
COME OUT, SAY YOU AND I MET, SAY WE CAME TO TERMS AND YOU BELIEVE THE CITY IS IN GOOD HANDS. SAY WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO SAY TO SAVE FACE AND GO.
YOU AND YOUR ARMY CAN GO FIND SOME OTHER WAR TO FIGHT SOMEWHERE-- I DON'T CARE. BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.


...
OR...OR *WHAT?*
ARE YOU... ARE YOU *INSANE?*
HM?
BECAUSE YOU DON'T SEEM CAPABLE OF LEADING YOUR WAY OUT OF A *WET PAPER BAG.*
YOU'VE GOT SUPER-POWERED FREAKS RUNNING WILD AND RAZING A CITY YOU SWORE TO PROTECT, YOU'VE GOT KIDS GOING OUT AND STARTING FIGHTS, STARTING FIRES--
YOU'RE *DONE*, SON.
THIS WAS IT. THIS WAS YOUR OLIVE BRANCH. AND NOW YOU DON'T GET TO WEAR THE BIG BOY PANTS ANYMORE.

I TRIED, OSBORN.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, HAND...
...I'M GOING TO DUMP THE FIRST SHOVEL OF DIRT ON THAT KID'S GRAVE MYSELF.
MARK MY WORDS. SCOTT SUMMERS IS A DEAD MAN.


"X-MEN." PFFAH.


STUPIDEST THING I EVER HEARD.
THOSE GUYS'RE TOURISTS.

SERIOUSLY, WE KICKED ASS OUT THERE LAST NIGHT AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME WE'RE ALL BENCHED SO OZZIE-BOY GETS A P.R. WIN?
THAT'S CRAP.
HAWKEYE--AKA BULLSEYE. PSYCHOTIC KILLING MACHINE. BORED.

MUTANT PROBLEMS, MUTANT SOLUTIONS.
WE'D CAUSE MORE HARM THAN HELP OUT THERE.
DR. KARLA SOFEN--MS. MARVEL. TEAM LEADER. HOOKS UP WITH EVERYTHING THAT MOVES.
MAC? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DO YOU THINK WE'D CAUSE PROBLEMS BEING OUT THERE, OR DO YOU LIKE BEING STUCK IN HERE, WATCHING TV?

S'WHAT THE BOSS SAYS, S'WHAT THE BOSS GETS.
I'M BORED TOO, BUT MOANIN' ABOUT IT WON'T HELP.
MAC GARGAN--SPIDER-MAN. VENOM SYMBIOTE-ENHANCED LOONY TUNE.
AND HIM. "WOLVERINE." GIVE ME A BREAK.
HOW MANY TEAMS CAN THAT GUY BE ON?!?
THIS IS CRAP AND YOU ALL KNOW IT!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE GOTTA PRETEND TO BE WHO WE'RE NOT, BUT TO HAVE TO SIT BACK WHILE THESE... RUBES...GET A TASTE OF ALL THE ACTION AND FAME?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I'M A FIGHTER, DAMMIT-- I WANT A FIGHT!
OSBORN CALLS THE PLAYS. AND THIS WAS THE CALL HE MADE.
NOW SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP.
PSSH.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, BIG GUY? YOU WITH ME?
AYE.
ARES--GREEK GOD OF WAR. ORATOR.
HAH.
DAMN STRAIGHT.

WELL WELL WELL.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
UM, HEY, GUYS?
THEY'RE BACK. THE, AHH... NORMAN'S X-MEN ARE BACK.
OOPS.
HEY!

FIRST YOU HAD SOME KIND OF PSYCHOTIC CONNIPTION IN THE FIELD AND NOW YOU WANT TO ROUGH UP THE PRISONERS?
YOU'RE NOT MY BOSS, LADY, AND ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I'M NOT THAT IMPRESSED.
YOU BETTER GET DOWN THERE.
YEAH.
PEOPLE--
PEOPLE, ENOUGH!
HOW DARE YOU--
COME ON THEN! COME AT ME IN THE FLESH, COWARD!
NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I WILL NOT HAVE CAPTURED MUTANTS ABUSED OR MUTILATED OR TORTURED BY ANY TEAM I AM A PART OF, OSBORN. AND THIS--
--THESE ARE CITIZENS, WITH RIGHTS, CIVIL AND HUMAN.
THEY MAY HAVE BROKEN THE LAW BUT THEY'RE STILL PROTECTED.

EMMA, EMMA-- COMPOSE YOURSELF. CALM DOWN.
THIS LOOKS BAD, I UNDERSTAND THAT. THE VISUAL ISN'T ONE WE'RE CRAZY ABOUT, BUT, HERE, LOOK.
THE BEAST HERE DESIGNED THE HELMETS TO BE PAIN-FREE POWER-DAMPENING DEVICES. THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL.
I KNOW WHO THAT IS, NORMAN, AND THAT MONSTER IS NOTHING LIKE THE BEAST. THAT YOU PROFANE HENRY McCOY BY--
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, EMMA.
THEN SHOW ME.
SHOW YOU WHAT, EMMA? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?
EVERYTHING.
SHOW ME EVERYTHING YOU TWO ARE DOING TO THE MUTANTS YOU'RE KEEPING HERE.
PROVE TO ME YOU'RE NOT TORTURING MY KIND OR ELSE I'LL PUNCH A HOLE THROUGH YOUR HEART, OSBORN.
OF COURSE.
BEAST, LET'S SHOW MS. FROST THE OMEGA MACHINE.
HNNF.

BEHAVE.
SO...
SO ARE YOU AN AVENGER OR AN X-MAN OR WHAT?
I ALWAYS DID LIKE PLAYING FOR BOTH TEAMS.
WHY? IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
LET ME REPHRASE THAT--
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, LITTLE MAN?
NOTHIN' I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.
I WOULD LOVE--QUITE LITERALLY, LOVE--
TO SEE YOU TRY, YOU RIDICULOUS CARNY.
FINALLY, SOME ACTION.

IT'S NOT THE FOUR SEASONS, YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT WE'RE DOING OUR BEST.
THE PRISONERS. WHERE?
ANY OF THE CELLS WITH PROJECT NUMBERS ON THEM. INSPECT WHOMEVER YOU WISH.
PART OF THE PROCESS, YOU SEE, IS THE GOVERNING OF A MUTANT'S ABILITY TO UTILIZE THEIR MUTANT ABILITIES...
THERE'S A DEGREE OF LETHARGY AT THE ONSET, A BIT LIKE A MILD FLU.
WE'RE WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO LESSEN THAT.
ALL THE SAME, THERE IS NO PERMANENT DAMAGE FROM THE PROCEDURE. ADMINISTERED DAILY, IT LIMITS MUTANT ABILITIES BUT DOESN'T RETARD THEM IN ANY LASTING WAY.
IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS, BUT THAT PROGRESS IS VERY REAL AND IS MADE DAILY.
THE MUTANT RIOTERS DOWN HERE--IF WE DIDN'T STORE THEM AND TREAT THEM, THE SFPD WOULD'VE HAD TO CART THEM ALL TO THE RAFT INSTEAD.
AND NOBODY WANTS THAT, RIGHT?
...EMMA?
EMMA FROST, IS THAT YOU?
IT IS YOU. I CAN--
--I KNOW IT'S YOU. BUT YOU'RE...YOU'RE IN YOUR DIAMOND FORM...
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE PROTECTED BUT YOU CAN'T THINK BACK...
YES.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

I CAN HEAR... I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING THEY'RE SAYING.
FORGIVE ME FOR EAVESDROPPING, EMMA, OF COURSE...
BUT THEY'RE LYING. THEY'RE KILLING HENRY. HE'S HERE. ASK TO SEE HENRY!
WHAT ABOUT MUTANTS WITH PERMANENT PHYSICAL MUTATIONS?
McCOY. LET ME SEE McCOY.
...
WE DON'T HAVE McCOY HERE.
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
HE WAS OUT IN THE RIOT. THE FIRST ONE. WE'VE NOT SEEN HIM SINCE.
I ASSUMED HE'D BEEN ARRESTED.
WE DON'T HAVE HIM. MAYBE SFPD...
HE'S IN THE CELL NEXT TO ME.
LOOK FOR HIM, EMMA! SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO HIM WITH YOUR OWN EYES.

WHO'S IN THOSE CELLS?
WHO ARE IN ALL OF THESE CELLS? I WANT A FULL DOSSIER.
EMPTY.
EQUIPMENT STORAGE, TRUTH BE TOLD. TAKE A LOOK.
AND WE'LL GET YOU THAT DOSSIER, EMMA, JUST AS SOON AS EVERYONE'S *PROCESSED.*
HMM.
EMMA, YOU'RE LOOKING RIGHT AT ME.
YOU ARE, QUITE LITERALLY, STARING ME IN THE FACE.
THIS BETTER WORK.
IT'S *OMEGA* THAT NEEDS WORK, OSBORN, NOT THE *HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE INDUCERS.*
SHE'S LOOKING AT A STORAGE CLOSET RIGHT NOW, TRUST ME.
I BELIEVE YOU.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO WORK OUT FOR THE BEST.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL
MY PEOPLE.
IF YOU'RE HEARING MY VOICE NOW, IT'S BECAUSE YOU TOOK MY MESSAGE INTO YOUR HEART AND INTO YOUR LIFE.
IN THE PAST 24 HOURS NORMAN OSBORN HAS ACTUALLY SANCTIONED A TEAM OF MUTANTS AND ENTRUSTED THEM WITH RESTORING LAW AND ORDER.
THESE, HE TELLS US...
THESE ARE GOOD MUTANTS.
SIMON TRASK—LEADER OF THE HUMANITY NOW! COALITION. HUMAN SENTINEL ZERO.
WELL, I SAY THE ONLY GOOD MUTANT IS DEAD OR DYING. AND SO NOW I SAY:
RISE.
RISE AND DESTROY!
DESTROY IT ALL!
HAIGHT

UTOPIA

CHAPTER FOUR
UNCANNY X-MEN #514

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO MUTATION AND IMPURITY WHEN IT GOES UNCHECKED.
"WE ASKED, THEN PLEADED, THEN BEGGED. WE MARCHED ARM IN ARM, LOCKSTEP WITH OUR FELLOW MAN, FOR A BETTER, CLEANER TOMORROW.
"YOU IGNORED US. YOU CALLED US BIGOTS AND BELIEVED US EXTREMISTS."
THE BLOODLINE MUST BE PURGED.
THE GENE POOL, CLEANSED OF IMPURE--
IT'S BAD, RIGHT?
IT LOOKS PRETTY BAD.
SCOTT SUMMERS--CYCLOPS. OPTIC FORCE BLASTS. UNBEATABLE PLANS.

GRAYMALKIN INDUSTRIES
MARIN, CA:
IT'S OKAY. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
I'D NORMALLY SPEAK TO EACH OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY BUT TIME IS VERY MUCH OF THE ESSENCE.
WE'RE BOXING IN A VERY SMALL RING, FOLKS, AND IT'S ABOUT TO GET INTENSE.
BETSY BRADDOCK--PSYLOCKE. TELEPATHIC, TELEKINETIC NINJA. LONG STORY.
NEENA THURMAN--DOMINO. LUCK-WARPING MERCENARY. MILD O.C.D. CASE.
MINDEE--STEPFORD CUCKOO. ONE PART OF THE THREE-IN-ONE CUCKOO HIVEMIND. FIRST NAME ACTUALLY "IRMA."
DANI MOONSTAR--MIRAGE. DEPOWERED MUTANT; DEPOSED VALKYRIE.
WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE THE SHIFT FROM DEFENSE AND OBSERVATION TO OFFENSE.
YOU ALL PLAY KEY PARTS IN MY STRATEGY.
DANI, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PULL OUT. ARE YOU SURE YOU--
I'M SORRY, IS SHE WEARING A WETSUIT?
WHY IS SHE WEARING A WETSUIT?
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SWIMMING.

NEENA, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR QUESTIONS.
I'M BORROWING X-23 FOR A LITTLE BIT THIS MORNING, BUT WHEN WE GET BACK-- GATHER YOUR PEOPLE AND WAIT AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT FOR LOGAN.
LOGAN'S COMING BACK? HOW? I THOUGHT OSBORN HAD THE CITY SHUT--
NEENA.
DON'T.
DANI, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YEAH, BOSS.
THEN GET TO VEGAS AND GET IT DONE.
AND DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
BETS?
WE'RE ON IT.
E.T.A.?
TWO, THREE DAYS.
WE NEED IT FASTER. DON'T SLEEP.
MINDEE...
I NEED YOU TO GET ARRESTED.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MR. SUMMERS...

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT, BRING IT ON YOU NANCY-BOY--
YOU AIN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH CLAWS--!
OH FOR THE LOVE OF--

HHHKKKGG--
AAAAAHHHH--
LIGHTS OUT.

--KILL YOU--
--NOT IF I KILL YOU FIRST--
YOU'RE BLOODY CHILDREN, BOTH OF YOU.
STAND DOWN, LITTLE MAN.
HOW DARE YOU--
DON'T DO IT, DUDE. BE COOL.
YOU SERIOUS?
ENOUGH! ALL OF YOU!
THE X-MEN ARE NEEDED IN SAN FRANCISCO. THE CITY IS UNDER ATTACK AND NEEDS TO SEE HER MUTANT HEROES OUT THERE SAVING THE DAY.
AND THE WORLD AT LARGE NEEDS TO KNOW *THE AVENGERS* HAVE OUR BACKS.
THIS IS WAR, YOU *CRETINS*--
--AND YOU'RE EITHER WITH US OR AGAINST US.
MAKE UP YOUR MINDS AND GET OUT OF THE WAY.
SEE YOU 'ROUND.
GOT THAT RIGHT, PUNK.

NORTHERN PARK:
10011 01111 10001
"SOME OF TRASK'S PEOPLE HAVE... MUTATED...INTO SOME KIND OF BIOMECHANICAL ABOMINATION.
"THEY APPEAR TO BE RECEIVING ORDERS TELEPATHICALLY FROM HIM. H.A.M.M.E.R. IS TRACKING DOWN HIS EXACT LOCATION.
"PRELIMINARY REPORTS SUGGEST THESE BIOSENTINELS CAN FIRE SOME KIND OF ENERGY BLAST FROM THEIR PALMS BUT THIS TENDS TO BE FATAL TO THE HOST--SOMETHING LIKE A BEE STING--SO BE MINDFUL."
CIVILIANS FIRST, HOSTILES SECOND, PROPERTY LAST.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING, CHILDREN. BE AMAZING.

CLOAK, DAGGER. CIVILIANS IN THAT BUILDING.
ON IT.
WOLVERINE, MIMIC-- HOSTILES TO MY THREE.
YEAH.
FROST.
ARE THESE THINGS EVEN HUMAN?
I...
THEIR MINDS ARE...
MY LORD.
WHATEVER TRASK INFECTED THEM WITH HAS KILLED THEM. THESE THINGS ARE NO LONGER HUMAN. THEY'RE NO LONGER TECHNICALLY ALIVE.
STOP THEM HOWEVER YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE.
IMPERIUS REX!

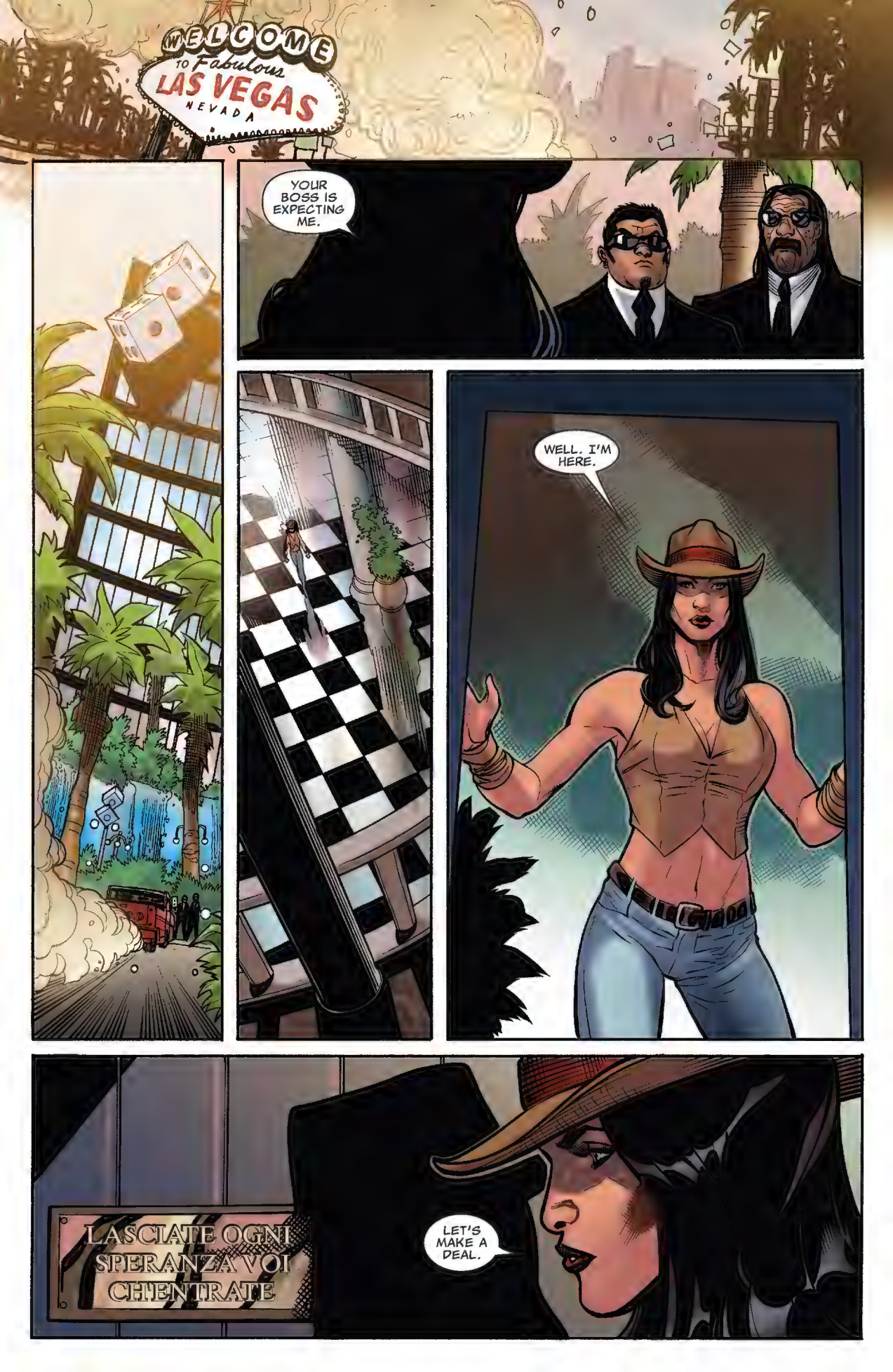
IS IT SAFE?
MR. SUMMERS?
PROBABLY NOT, BUT STILL...
UNTIL WE KNOW THE SITUATION IS BEING TAKEN CARE OF, WE CAN'T JUST SIT ON OUR HANDS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.
I GUESS I JUST--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. NOBODY DOES. AND--
IF YOU GUYS GET CAUGHT OUT THERE, AREN'T YOU JUST, LIKE, GONNA GET ARRESTED OR WHATEVER?
PEOPLE ARE DYING, MEGAN.
WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT EMMA'S TEAM TO TRUST THEY'LL DEAL WITH IT.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
"PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO-- TRY NOT TO BE ALARMED.
"WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS."

THIS IS EMMA FROST ON BEHALF OF NORMAN OSBORN AND H.A.M.M.E.R. WE ARE NOW ON-SITE.
BE CALM AND STAY SAFE.
WE'RE HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS AND CATASTROPHIC OUTBREAKS LIKE THESE ARE OUR SPECIALTY.
AFTER ALL...
WE'RE THE X-MEN.
THERE'S NOTHING HUMAN HERE AT ALL.
TRASK'S INFECTION HAS STOLEN THEIR VERY HUMANITY. BIOLOGICAL OR OTHERWISE.
HUMANITY IS OVERRATED.
THEN DARLING...
YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR THE WRONG SIDE.

EVER GET THE FEELING WE'RE FIGHTING THE RIGHT WAR WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE?
WE DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE A CHOICE.
THEY DIDN'T GIVE US ANY OTHER OPTIONS.
WE COULD RUN.
WE CAN'T, TANDY. NOT ANYMORE.
IT'S WHAT WE DO. IT'S WHAT WE ALWAYS DO. WE RUN NOW AND WE'LL BE RUNNING FOREVER...
IS IT WORTH TAUNTING YOU, I WONDER?
DO YOU ABOMINATIONS EVEN UNDERSTAND ENGLISH ANYMORE? OR ANY LANGUAGE, FOR THAT MATTER?

DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU'RE DEAD ALL THE SAME.
HEY--
HEY!!
DAMMIT.
YOU KNOW, IT'S INTERESTING.
WHATEVER THIS *INFECTION* IS THAT'S TURNED YOU INTO THIS MONSTER....IT'S A KIND OF *MUTATION*.

THE MAN THAT HATES MUTANTS...
MADE HIMSELF A MUTANT ARMY.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, YA DUMB BIGOT?
WHERE IS HE?
WHERE IS TRA--
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
ABSOLUTELY NOT. AS LONG AS THERE WAS A HUMAN SOUL IN THERE SOMEWHERE I COULD'VE REACHED IT-- I COULD'VE REASONED--
YOU CAN'T REASON WITH THE DEAD.
WE'RE ALL DEAD. DON'T YOU SEE THAT?
WE'RE DEAD. WE'RE DEAD AND THIS IS HELL.


WELCOME
TO Fabulous
LAS VEGAS
NEVADA
YOUR BOSS IS EXPECTING ME.
WELL. I'M HERE.
LASCIATE OGNI SPERANZA VOI CH'ENTRATE
LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

NORTHEAST:
...YOU'RE SURE THE BIKES ARE SAFE?
WORTHINGTON INDUSTRIES OWNS THE BUILDING. NOBODY COMES IN UNLESS ANGEL GAVE 'EM A KEY.
YOU'RE THE SQUAD I'VE PUT TOGETHER TO TAKE OUT EMMA'S GANG.
EACH ONE OF YOU CHOSEN SPECIFICALLY.
NOW LOOK DOWN THERE AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.
SHOULDN'T WE BE DOWN THERE TRYING TO STOP THOSE MONSTERS?
WE GET SPOTTED, NORTHSTAR, AND WE GET DISAPPEARED. NOT ARRESTED. NOT DETAINED. DISAPPEARED.
THE PICO-SECOND IT LOOKS LIKE EMMA'S GROUP DOESN'T HAVE THIS SIEGE UNDER CONTROL, WE GET INVOLVED. DISAPPEARING BE DAMNED.
BUT RIGHT NOW IT'D BE A POINTLESS SACRIFICE.
YOU NEED TO OBSERVE THIS TEAM.
FIND YOUR MARK. WATCH HOW THEY MOVE; STUDY HOW THEY THINK IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE.
"THIS IS HOMEWORK.
"STUDY HARD."

10010
THERE'S A CLOCK TICKING SOMEWHERE, DARLINGS, AND WE CAN'T HEAR IT.
WE NEED TO FIGHT OUR WAY UP THE FOOD CHAIN.
LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION.

GGRRRRAAA—
YAH!
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE FIGHTING ANY SMARTER.
GOOD.

STAY DOWN.
FROST?
DON'T BE AFRAID. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
WHAT'S NEXT?
CAREFUL, MA'AM.
ARE WE DONE?
ON THE CONTRARY.
I'D SAY YOUR TEAM IS ONLY JUST GETTING WARMED UP.

WELL LET'S TELL THE BOSS THE GOOD NEWS...
FROST TO H.A.M.M.E.R. WEST--WE'VE SHUT DOWN THE OUTBREAK IN NORTHERN PARK.
WHERE TO NOW?

MS. FROST, NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
TRASK'S LAST KNOWN LOCATION WAS ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND IT SEEMS THE ATTACK IS BEING DIRECTED FROM THERE.
ALL OF OUR INTEL SUGGESTS THAT IF THIS PARTICULAR HURRICANE HAS AN EYE, THAT'S IT.

WELL THEN.
MR. JOHNSON. TO ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL, IF YOU PLEASE.
YES MA'AM.

CIVILIANS PROTECTED, THE INJURED WERE EVACUATED, AND NOT A SINGLE HOSTILE LEFT STANDING.
MAN...
THESE GUYS ARE GOOD.
YES THEY ARE.
AND THIS IS HOW WE BEAT THEM.
IT'S NOT SUPERIOR NUMBERS. IT'S NOT POWERS, IT'S NOT DIVIDE AND CONQUER.
IT'S US. IT'S ALL OF US.
THEY WERE ALL FIGHTING ALONE. TOGETHER, BUT ALONE.
AND WE FIGHT AS ONE.
WE FIGHT TOGETHER... TOGETHER.
AND BELIEVING IN ONE ANOTHER, TRUSTING YOUR TEAM, AND ACTING ACCORDINGLY?
THEY'LL NEVER SEE IT COMING.
CYCLOPS-- SCOTT--
EVEN IF WE ALL GET LUCKY AND OUTFIGHT EMMA'S TEAM...
THE SECOND WE ATTACK THEM, OSBORN'S ONLY GOING TO CALL IN HIS AVENGERS, RIGHT?
I MEAN... HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STOP THEM?
WHO SAID YOU'RE THE SQUAD THAT'S SUPPOSED TO STOP THE AVENGERS, BOBBY?

BAY OF OAKLAND:
SO, UH...
DO YOU GUYS, UH, WORK TOGETHER A LOT OR SOMETHING? DO YOU--
JAMES.
WHERE WERE YOU?
STUDYING.
SAY WHAT?
DO NOT WORRY YOURSELF.
YEAH, WHY WOULD I BE WORRIED? CYCLOPS GAVE US THESE COORDINATES TO WAIT FOR WOLVERINE TO SHOW UP AND DIDN'T BOTHER TO SPECIFY A TIME OR A--
THERE.
ILLYANA. SORRY TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS.
BUT WE NEED YOU.
WE'RE GOING TO GET OUR PEOPLE BACK.

JUST OFF THE PACIFIC COAST:
X-SUB, YOU SHOULD BE COMING TOWARDS YOUR DESTINATION NOW.
ROGER THAT, DR. TAKIGUCHI.
WE'LL KEEP OUR EYES PEELED.
JEFFRIES, HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO INSTALL?
FOUR, FIVE HOURS. FOUR IF WE'RE LUCKY AND IT WORKS FIRST TIME OUT.
IT TOOK US THREE DAYS TO MAKE IT. WE NEED THREE MORE AFTER THIS.
DO YOU GUYS REALLY THINK WE CAN PULL THIS OFF?
THIS IS THE END OF THE X-MEN IN CALIFORNIA, JEFFRIES.
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

UTOPIA

CHAPTER FIVE
DARK AVENGERS #8

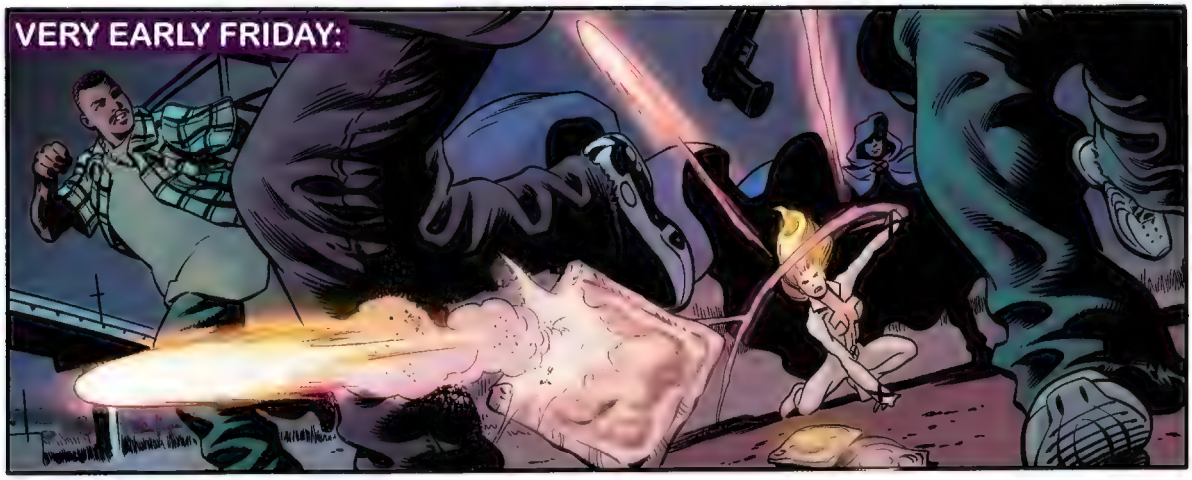
LAS VEGAS, NV
THE INFERNO CLUB
ALLOW ME--FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT--TO REVIEW THESE LAST FEW MOMENTS.
YOUR SITUATION IS SO *DIRE* THAT YOU'VE SOUGHT OUT HELA, THE QUEEN OF HEL HERSELF, TO ASK OF ME A *BOON:*
KNOWING FULL WELL IT DOES NOT COME FOR FREE.
YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN SHOULDER THE BURDEN, MISS MOONSTAR?
I'VE GOT STRONG SHOULDERS.
I'LL NEED A NEW RIDE HOME AND A BIG OL' *SWORD.*

San Francisco, CA
St. Francis Hospital
WHO AMONG YOU CAN KILL ME, MUTANTS? MONGRELS! I DUB YOU UNHOLY, UNCLEAN!
"FOR AN ABOMINATION TO JEHOVAH IS THE PERVERTED, AND WITH THE UPRIGHT IS HIS SECRET COUNSEL!"
UNCLEAN!
UN-HUMAN!
YOUR KIND IS THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE!
YOU'RE DONE, SON.
AND GOOD RIDDANCE.
SNIKT
...LIVE AT THE SCENE NOW, WHERE IT APPEARS THE--THE--
WELL, THAT THE X-MEN HAVE SUBDUED SIMON TRASK AND PUT AN END TO THE ASSAULT WAVE OF WHAT H.A.M.M.E.R. HAS DUBBED "BIO-SENTINELS..."
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK.
TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY:

STOP, IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
AAAAAHHH!

THURSDAY:


VERY EARLY FRIDAY:

VERY LATE FRIDAY:
CHEZ PAN
SATURDAY:
ALL DUE RESPECT, MAYOR SINCLAIR, BUT I DISAGREE. ALL DIRECTOR OSBORN IS SAYING--ALL HIS TEAM--
--OUR TEAM, PROFESSOR XAVIER--
--OUR TEAM OF X-MEN DOES IS PROTECT THE PUBLIC SAFETY...SANS POLITICS. THIS ACTIVIST MILITIA THAT SCOTT SUMMERS HAS ASSEMBLED IS COMPLETELY ANTITHETICAL TO MY BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS.
"ACTIVIST MILITIA"--?!?
WELL, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY WE JUST GOT THE MAYOR UNELECTED.
SO NOW WHAT'S THE PLAN?
WE KEEP TAKING IT.
AND THE SECOND HANK'S SCIENCE TEAM CHECKS IN, LET ME KNOW.
SUNDAY:

ALCATRAZ
...THE OMEGA MACHINE THUS GENTLY DRAINS THE MUTANT POWER SOURCE AND PROVIDES A FEEDING MECHANISM FOR OUR DEAR MR. POINTER.
YES.
OH MY GOD. IT'S TORTURE.
AS YOU CAN SEE IT'S NOT YET COMPLETELY PAINLESS BUT WE'RE GETTING THERE...
EVEN A VACCINE COMES WITH A PIN PRICK...
TY, WE--WE CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS, WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE, WE--
NOT NOW, TANDY. NOT HERE. JUST STAY COOL, OKAY?
TRY TO STAY COOL.
PACK UP, TEAM. YOU'RE BACK TO THE EAST COAST TOMORROW MORNING.
YOU GOTTA BE @%#$ KIDDING ME.
I ASSURE YOU I'M NOT. I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY MS. FROST'S X-MEN ARE GETTING THE CITY UNDER CONTROL AND I THINK THE PUBLIC WOULD VIEW THE AVENGERS HEADING HOME AS A BIG VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HER FAVOR.
AND I'M NOT ASKING. TOMORROW MORNING.
WE AIN'T DONE YET, MUTIES.
WE AIN'T EVEN GOTTEN STARTED...

BAY OF OAKLAND
X-MEN SCIENCE TEAM
DR. JEFFRIES?
IT'S JUST MISTER, PSYLOCKE. AND MADISON IS PREFERABLE STILL.
MADISON... DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
IT WORKS ON PAPER. AND I KNOW THE MACHINES WILL DO WHAT WE NEED THEM TO DO.
SO, MECHANICALLY? YES. YES, IT WILL WORK.
I KNOW YOU DID.
I MEANT THE PLAN.

WELL?
WELL WHAT? IT'S DONE.
THEY'RE ALL INSTALLED AND READY FOR ACTIVATION.
THEN LET'S STOP BLOODY TALKING AND TURN THEM ON.
I'M SORRY. I'M SO TIRED. IT'S GETTING THE BETTER OF ME.
KAVITA-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE ALL RUNNING ON FUMES.
WELL, FUMES AND WEIRD SCIENCE CHEMICALS...
THERE.
IT WORKS. ENGINES ONE THROUGH FIVE ARE ALL ONLINE AND OPERATIONAL.
AHH, DAMMIT.
X-CLUB TO GRAYMALKIN.
ENGINES ARE GO. WE'RE READY.

ALCATRAZ
...AFTER ALL, IT'S A FLOATING PRISON.
CAN YOU BLAME ME? THE PLACE WAS *DESIGNED* FOR THIS SORT OF THING.
YOU...WERE DESIGNED FOR THIS SORT OF THING.
YES, YES, YOU'RE SO SMART. YOU'RE SO *CLEVER*.
WILL YOU PLEASE JUST SHUT UP AND *FLIP THE SWITCH*--
SHALL YOU TWO OLD WOMEN ACTUALLY BE *TORTURING* ME TODAY?
OR DO YOU JUST PLAN ON BEING *CATTY* UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME?
ARROOOW!
YES YES YES YESSSSS
MORE. NOW. MORE!
I KNOW, I KNOW.
YOU'RE WORSE THAN A CHILD, MICHAEL, I SWEAR...

A STUPID... MEWLING...
...OBNOXIOUS LITTLE CHILD...
THE HELL?
NO--NO. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
HOW--
THEY'RE ALL GONE--
TAKING TOO LONG!
I NEED MORE JUICE, DAMMIT!
...
SNF
SNF

I LED THEM RIGHT TO YOUR LITTLE TORTURE CAMP, YOU SICKENING NAZI THUG.
NOBODY EVER TAKES THE HOT LITTLE BLONDE SERIOUSLY.
SUPPOSE I SHOULD TELL YOU WE CAN DO THIS QUIET OR LOUD.
AN' I HOPE TO GOD YOU CHOOSE LOUD.
SNIKT!
OMEGA!!!
GGRRAA--
GET THE REST OF THE TEAM DOWN HERE NOW--!
AH.
OF COURSE.

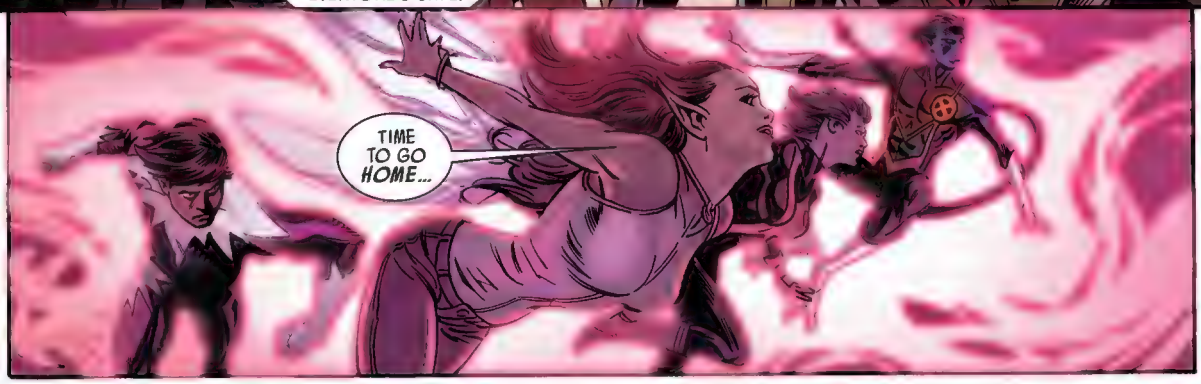
...IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN, M'BOY. AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE FAITH IN IT--
OSBORN, IF YOU THINK THESE MUTIE FREAKS ARE GOING TO JUST LIE DOWN AN'--
DIRECTOR OSBORN!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON WITH THE MUTANTS IN THE HOLDING CELLS!
I TOLD YOU SO.
THIS IS IT.
HOLD FAST, AVENGERS. IT APPEARS MY ENTHUSIASM MAY HAVE BEEN PREMATURE.
WE'LL GIVE FROST'S TEAM THEIR SHOT.
THEN YOU'LL COME IN TO BAT CLEANUP.

GRAYMALKIN INDUSTRIES
MARIN COUNTY, CA
AH, EXCUSE ME.
MISTER SUMMERS?
I'VE HEARD FROM MY ASSOCIATES IN THE X-CLUB, SIR.
THE PROJECT IS A SUCCESS.
I THINK IT'S TIME THE EVACUATION TEAM ASSEMBLED IN YOUR LAB, DR. TAKIGUCHI.
...AND KURT-- GATHER EVERYONE IN YOUR CHAPEL AND KEEP 'EM CALM. I'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU IN THE FIELD FOR THIS, BUT--
TENDING TO A FLOCK IS JUST AS IMPORTANT, SCOTT. I UNDERSTAND.
WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR YOUR COMMAND, SCOTT.
BOSSMAN, IS THAT--
IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
IT IS.
HOW DID YOU--
LATER, BOBBY. I'M SORRY, BUT--
BUT THIS IS IT, PEOPLE. STICK TO THE PLAN. HAVE FAITH IN THE PLAN AND IN EACH OTHER AND WE'LL WIN.
LOSE THAT TRUST FOR EVEN A SECOND AND WE LOSE EVERYTHING.
THE ORDER IS GIVEN, GENTLEMEN.
RISE.

RUN, GIRL, COME ON--!
OH, WAIT--

THIS IS IT!
CYCLOPS HAS GIVEN THE ORDER.
NIGHTCRAWLER, BOOM-BOOM, NORTHSTAR--MISTER SUMMERS SAYS YOU'RE FIRST.
MAGMA--AND COLOSSUS--YOU'LL COME NEXT. THEN EVERYBODY ELSE.

DA.
MAGIK--WHEN SHE'S DONE DOING WHATEVER SHE'S DOING--AND I WILL BE MAKING TRANSPORT RUNS UNTIL EVERYONE'S SAFE.


TIME TO GO HOME...

ALCATRAZ
KNEW YOU'D JUST HAVE TO RUIN IT FOR THE REST OF US.
WARPATH, YOU AND ME ON THEIR BEAST.
EVERYONE ELSE, STOP OMEGA.

RRRRRRRAAARR--
SUPERLATIVE AIM, DOMINO.
I LIVE TO GIVE.
THIS IS A CRIME AGAINST SCIENCE--!
SO ARREST ME.
KEEP LOW--
ENOUGH!
WOW, THE X-MEN.
ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU GUYS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL-LIKE.

YOU MORONS.
THERE ARE NO CAMERAS DOWN HERE. NO MEDIA TO PROTECT YOU.
WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU ALL AND NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW.
I DON'T THINK SO.
BUT, BOY, I'LL BE DAMNED IF I DIDN'T SORTA HOPE YOU TRY.
YOU DIE LAST, OLD MAN.
AFTER WATCHING ALL YOUR FRIENDS DIE AS SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY AS WE CAN MANAGE.
OH, DO SHUT UP--
GGHHFF

WHOA, EMMA, YOU--
=PPFF=
SILENCE, WHELP.
NEVER DOUBTED YOU FOR A SECOND, GIRL...
THAT'S IT! THE PRISONERS ARE EVACUATED.
EVERYBODY THAT WANTS OFF THIS ROCK, NOW'S THE TIME TO GET TO GETTING.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

THIS IS IT, CHILDREN, AND YOU'VE SECONDS TO DECIDE.
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
THIS IS YOUR MOMENT, MY LITTLE RUNAWAYS.
I KNOW YOU'RE USED TO BEING HATED AND DESPISED...PERSECUTED AND MISUNDERSTOOD...AND I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO JOIN ANY CLUB THAT WOULD HAVE YOU FOR A MEMBER.
WE ALL FEEL THE SAME WAY.
IS THIS...
WHAT ARE WE DOING? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?
NOT ME, DARLINGS...
...SCOTT.
SCOTT HAS A PLAN...

OSBORN, WE--

SHUT UP.

SHUT UP AND WATCH THIS.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY
UTOPIA

--JUST ROSE UP--IT ROSE UP RIGHT OUT OF THE DAMN WATER--

EMMA FROST.

NAMOR.

AND SCOTT.

@%!@#

SUMMERS.

EMMA!
SCOTT, DARLING.
THIS IS NAMOR.
EXCELLENT WORK, MAN. JUST FANTASTIC.
EMMA, NAMOR, CLOAK, AND DAGGER--CONTRARY TO APPEARANCES OVER THE LAST WEEK--ARE ON OUR SIDE.
THERE WILL BE TIME TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE THE FIGHTING STOPS, SO FOR NOW ALL I CAN DO IS BEG YOU ALL TO TRUST ME.
AND TRUST THE PLAN. AND THAT TRUST WILL BE REWARDED SOON.
BAMF
--OH WOW--
I'M JUST GONNA START TALKING, OKAY?
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
YOU'RE GOOD--GO--
--OMING TO YOU LIVE FROM SAN FRANCISCO BAY WITH THIS EXCLUSIVE--

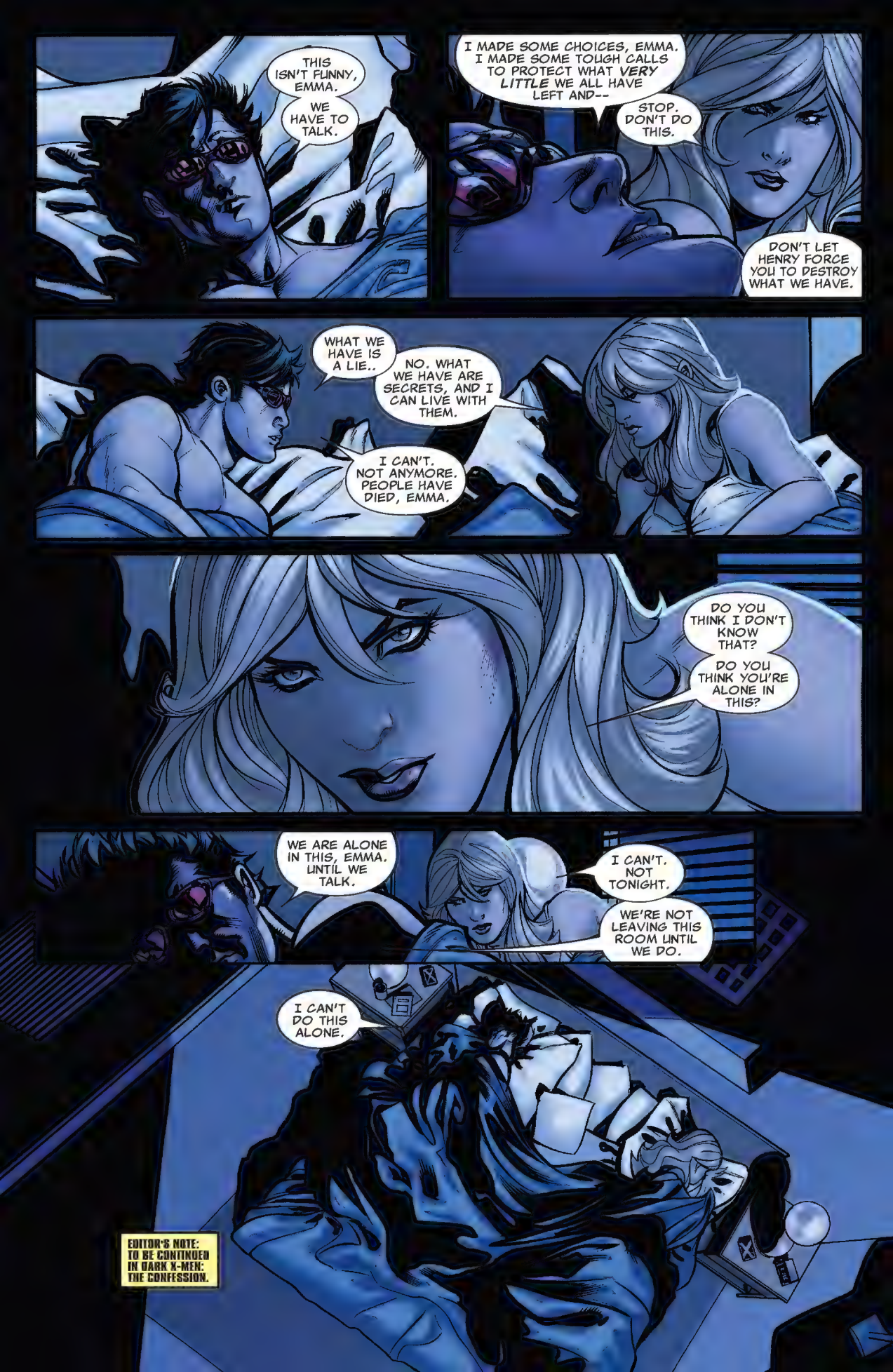
DON'T BE SCARED.
I'M SCOTT SUMMERS--AND WELL, FIRST OFF YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED.
WE REJECT NORMAN OSBORN'S POGROMS AGAINST MUTANTS.
WE REJECT THE HATE CRIMES OF TRASK AND HIS ILK.
IT SEEMED TO US THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WANTED US GONE, SO WE'VE LEFT.
BUT WE WON'T BE PUSHED, PROSECUTED, PERSECUTED, OR PUNISHED ANY FURTHER. WE SEEK PEACE AND TO LIVE PEACEFULLY.
WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT...
...IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.
--DAMN STRAIGHT IT IS--
BUT ALL THE SAME...
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING.
HEH.
BRING ME NAMOR'S HEAD--
AND EMMA FROST'S HEART. AND MAKE SURE SUMMERS SEES YOU DO IT.
WITH PLEASURE.

UTOPIA

CONCLUSION

EXODUS

7 DAYS AGO...
SECRETS, SCOTT. SECRETS, EMMA.
IN THESE TIMES-- THESE AWFUL, FRACTIOUS TIMES--
WE... ARE ALL WE HAVE LEFT.
I'M TAKING THE X-CLUB ON A MISSION COME DAYLIGHT. I EXPECT I MIGHT BE GONE SOME TIME.
BUT WHEN I GET BACK, WE'RE HAVING IT AAALL OUT, DO YOU HEAR ME?
THE SECRETS WILL KILL US.
AND I WON'T STICK AROUND TO WATCH IT HAPPEN.
WELL...
...I SUPPOSE HENRY IS QUITTING, THEN.


THIS ISN'T FUNNY, EMMA.
WE HAVE TO TALK.
I MADE SOME CHOICES, EMMA. I MADE SOME TOUGH CALLS TO PROTECT WHAT VERY LITTLE WE ALL HAVE LEFT AND--
STOP. DON'T DO THIS.
DON'T LET HENRY FORCE YOU TO DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE.
WHAT WE HAVE IS A LIE..
NO. WHAT WE HAVE ARE SECRETS, AND I CAN LIVE WITH THEM.
I CAN'T. NOT ANYMORE. PEOPLE HAVE DIED, EMMA.
DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ALONE IN THIS?
WE ARE ALONE IN THIS, EMMA. UNTIL WE TALK.
I CAN'T. NOT TONIGHT.
WE'RE NOT LEAVING THIS ROOM UNTIL WE DO.
I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
EDITOR'S NOTE: TO BE CONTINUED IN DARK X-MEN: THE CONFESSION.

NOW

1.2 MILES OFF THE COAST OF SAN FRANCISCO

WOLVERINE, HAVE YOUR TEAM TAKE THE RESCUED AND THE WOUNDED INSIDE UNTIL THEY'RE EVALUATED FOR COMBAT STATUS.

ALREADY SQUARED AWAY. WE'RE GETTING IN THIS FIGHT, SLIM.

GOOD. WE'LL NEED YOU.

EVERYONE ELSE, BATTLE STATIONS. EMMA, KEEP EVERYONE IN PSYCHIC CONTACT AT ALL TIMES.

TIME TO SEE IF I'M AS SMART AS I THINK I AM.

DARKHOLME, YOU STICK AROUND AND STAY IN CHARACTER FOR THE CAMERAS.

AND BELIEVE ME, THERE WILL BE CAMERAS.

REST OF YOU? DO WHAT YOU DO.

WOLVERINE AND X-23--YOU'RE FIRST WAVE. TAKE OUT OMEGA AND DAKEN.
ON IT.
AS YOU WISH.
EVERYONE ELSE...
SCRAMBLE!
MY GOD... OSBORN'S DRESSED UP BULLSEYE AS A HERO.

WARREN-- THAT'S BULLSEYE. I NEED YOU TO TAKE HIM OFF THE BOARD.
YOU DON'T MEAN ME.
NO.
NO I DON'T.
--TH' HELL?

REMEMBER US?
REMEMBER THE CASTRO?
BECAUSE WE REMEMBER YOU--
SETTIN' ME ON FIRE IS JUST GONNA GO AN' GET ME ALL RILED UP, YA MUTIE FREAKS--
YOU.
WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
BRING IT.
REALLY, LOGAN? THE GIRL?
YOU'RE SICCING THE GIRL ON ME?

I AM NO ONE'S ATTACK DOG.
WOOF WOOF.
WHAT THING CAN KILL ME?!?
WHAT THING CAN STOP MY WRATH?!?
HEY!
GGGGRRRAAAA
YOU KILLED A MESS O' MY PALS UP NORTH, BUB.
YOU DON'T GET TO WALK AWAY FROM THAT.

MARIN COUNTY
SON OF A--
BIRD-MAN? WHERE'D YOU GO?
YOU AIN'T GONNA GET OUT OF WHAT YOU GOT COMIN'.
WHERE THE HELL DID--
I'M RIGHT HERE, YOU MURDEROUS BASTARD.
NEAT TRICK.

BIG GUNS.
OPEN FIRE.
NAMOR--
I'LL STOP THE SENTRY.
MY WORD.
WAR!
THIS IS WAR!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, SCOTTY-BOY.
LET'S NOT LET HIM DOWN.

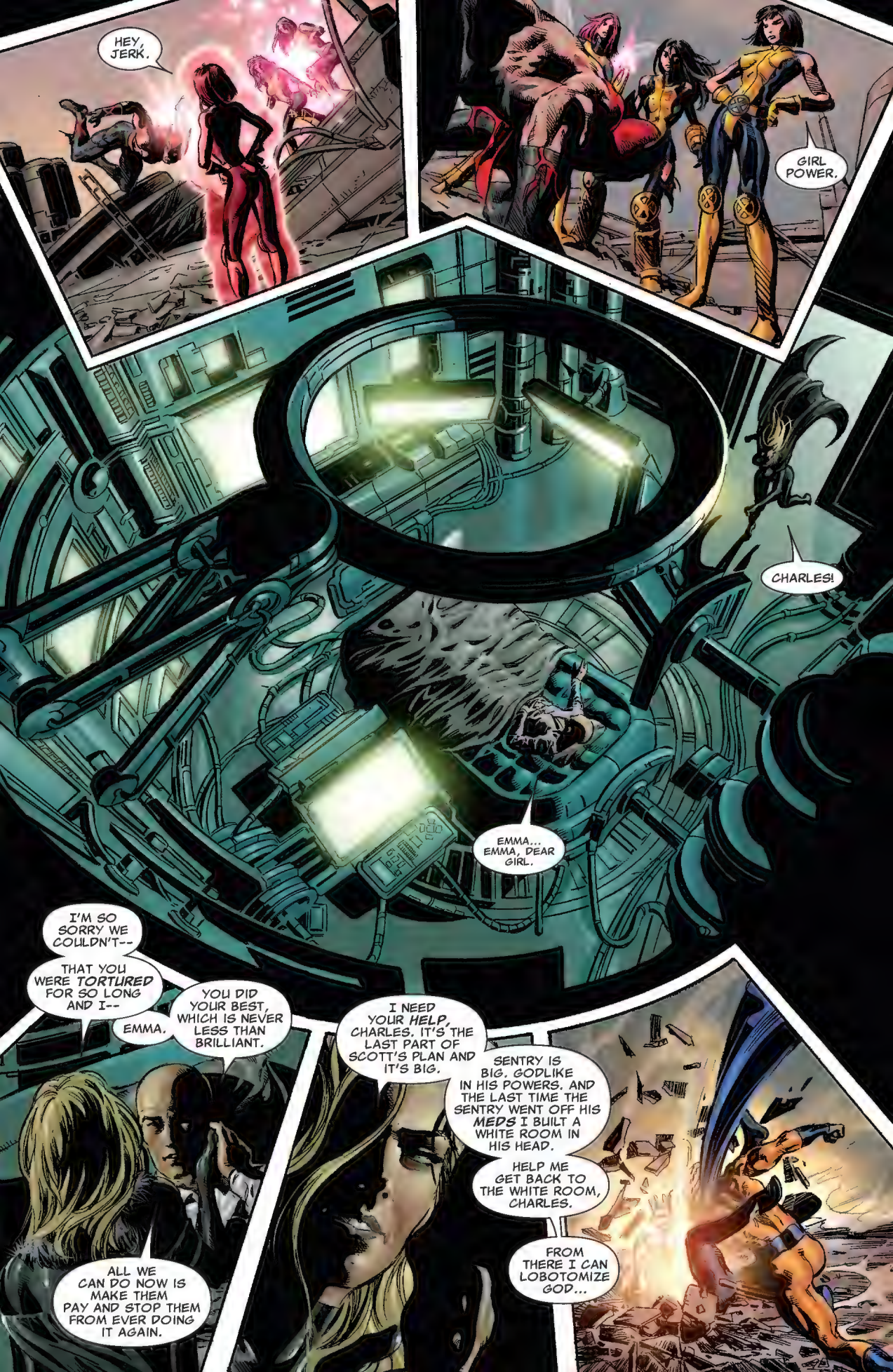
GAAH--
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME, LITTLE MAN?
I THINK I SHALL TRY, YOU GIBBERING SCHIZOID.
THIS IS YOUR WAR, OSBORN.
NOT OURS.
YOU PEOPLE HAD TO GO AND MAKE ME LOOK STUPID.
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE WANTED A WAR BUT YOU DAMN WELL GOT ONE--
AAAA

RRAAAHH!
STAND DOWN, SCOTT.
THERE IS NO VICTORY FOR YOU HERE.
"YOU WILL LOSE.
"NOT JUST YOUR TEAM-- YOUR KIND-- WILL LOSE."
OH, NORMAN.
IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE THINGS THE WAY I DO...
YOU'D HAVE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ENTIRELY.

YIELD.
NEVER!
I WILL KILL YOU!
I WILL SNAP YOUR BONES WITH MY BARE HANDS AND--
IF YOU WANT TO STOP A GOD, YOU CUT A DEAL WITH A GOD.
I BORROWED POWER FROM MISTRESS HELA HERSELF TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY THE HELL DOWN.

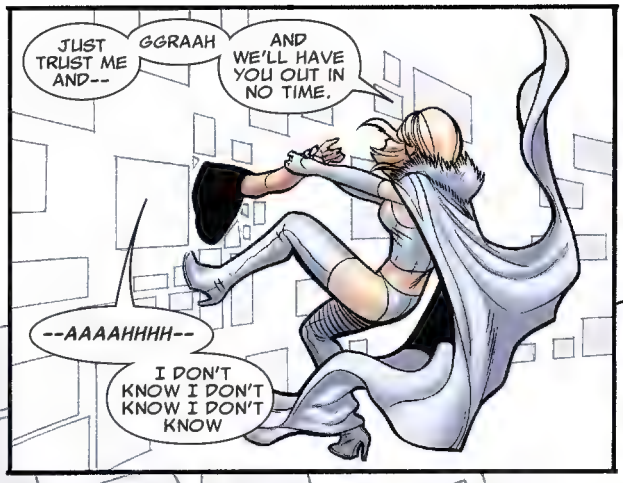
WELL I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT I'M HAVING AN AMAZING TIME--
RRAAAAAOOOOORRRR--!!
STUPID METAL SON OF A--
THAT'S FOR OUR McCOY--

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO I CAN DO BETTER...
I CAN DO ANYTHING BETTER THAN YOU.
NO.
YOU.
CAN'T.
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO COPY SOME OF US, MIMIC--
--BUT YOU CAN'T STOP ALL OF US.
I SWEAR, WOMEN WHO THINK THEY CAN FIGHT NEVER CEASE TO AMUSE ME--
YOU ALL RIGHT?

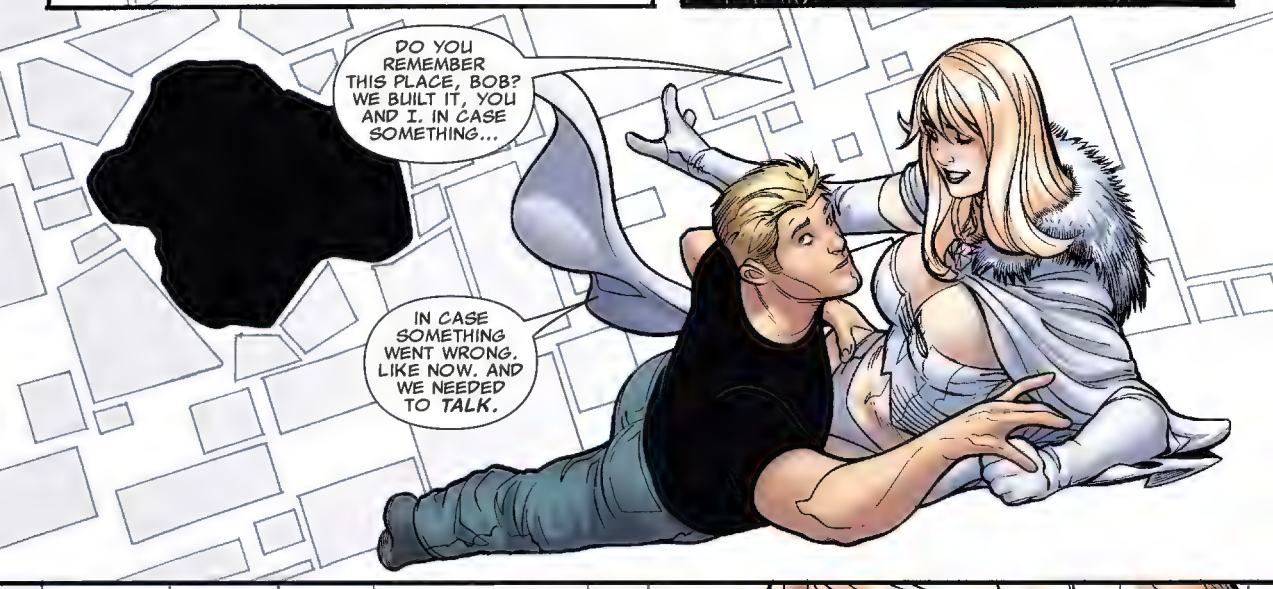

HEY, JERK.
GIRL POWER.
CHARLES!
EMMA... EMMA, DEAR GIRL.
I'M SO SORRY WE COULDN'T--
THAT YOU WERE *TORTURED* FOR SO LONG AND I--
EMMA.
YOU DID YOUR BEST, WHICH IS NEVER LESS THAN BRILLIANT.
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS MAKE THEM PAY AND STOP THEM FROM EVER DOING IT AGAIN.
I NEED YOUR *HELP*, CHARLES. IT'S THE LAST PART OF SCOTT'S PLAN AND IT'S BIG.
SENTRY IS BIG. GODLIKE IN HIS POWERS. AND THE LAST TIME THE SENTRY WENT OFF HIS *MEDS* I BUILT A WHITE ROOM IN HIS HEAD.
HELP ME GET BACK TO THE WHITE ROOM, CHARLES.
FROM THERE I CAN LOBOTOMIZE GOD...

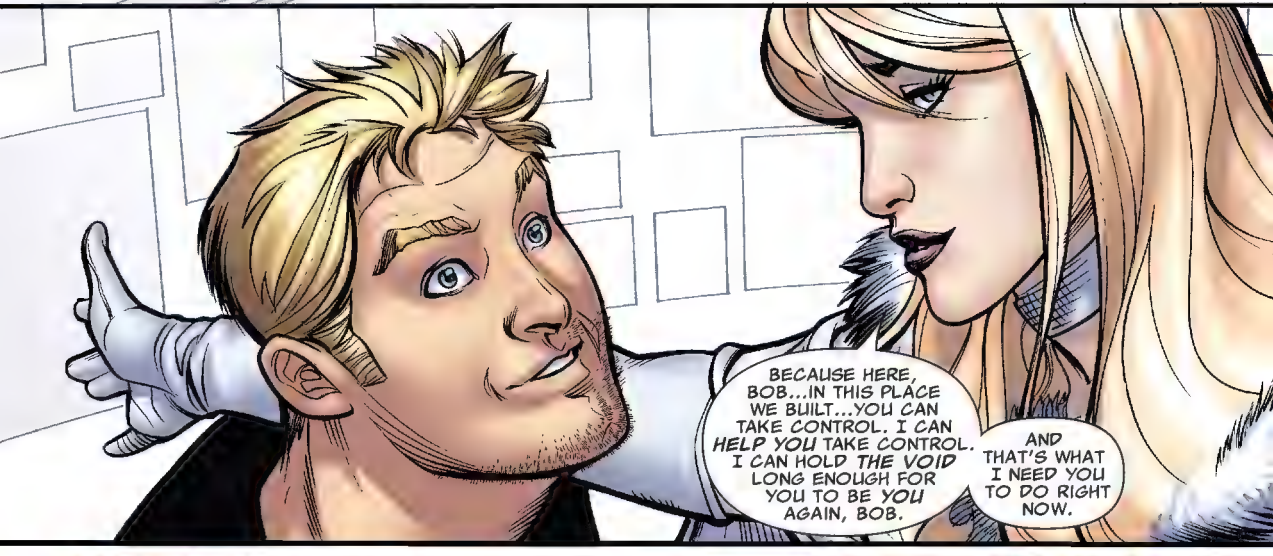
AHH--
BOB?
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.

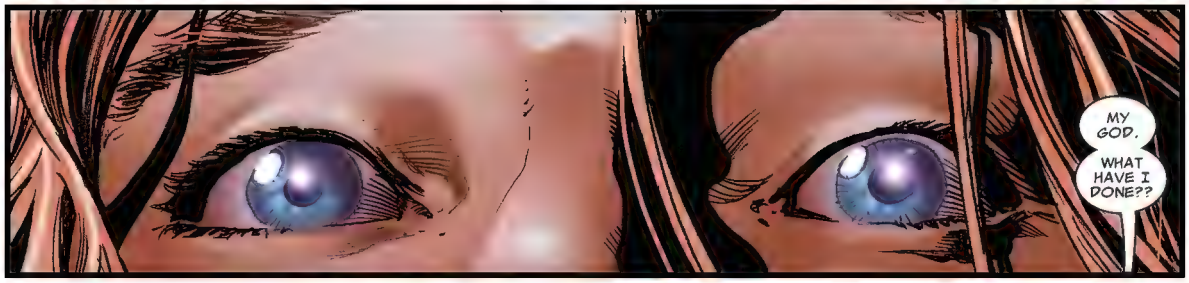
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HELP ME.
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
BOB. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE? DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE EMMA FROST.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU REMEMBERED ME.
WE ALL REMEMBER YOU, BOB.
BOB, I--WE--
WE NEED YOU TO COME BACK TO US. JUST FOR A SECOND. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?
OH, MAN, I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW--
IT'S BEEN SO LONG AND-- AND I--
IT'S BEEN SO LONG I DON'T KNOW HOW.
HERE, DARLING.
LET YOUR FRIENDS HELP YOU.


JUST TRUST ME AND--
GGRAAH
AND WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN NO TIME.
--AAAAHHHH--
I DON'T KNOW I DON'T KNOW I DON'T KNOW

THERE WE GO--!!
AHH!


DO YOU REMEMBER THIS PLACE, BOB? WE BUILT IT, YOU AND I. IN CASE SOMETHING...
IN CASE SOMETHING WENT WRONG. LIKE NOW. AND WE NEEDED TO *TALK*.


BECAUSE HERE, BOB...IN THIS PLACE WE BUILT...YOU CAN TAKE CONTROL. I CAN *HELP YOU* TAKE CONTROL. I CAN HOLD *THE VOID* LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO BE *YOU* AGAIN, BOB.
AND THAT'S WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO RIGHT NOW.


MY GOD.
WHAT HAVE I DONE??

NNN
CHARLES.
GOOD LORD, CHILD--
CAN'T HOLD IT.

SCOTT--

EMMA?

EMMA?!?

...I...

...WHERE...
...HOW...

EMMA! STAY IN YOUR DIAMOND STATE--NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO YOU *MUST* REMAIN FIXED IN DIAMOND...

THERE'S...A SLIVER OF THE VOID *STILL INSIDE* OF YOU...!

?!?

HEH.

GUESS WHO'S OFF THE BOARD, GENIUS?

STOP SMILING, DAMN YOU!!

STOP LAUGHING! THIS ISN'T A GAME!

WE STILL HAVE *ARES.*

DO YOU?

"BECAUSE THAT'S NOT A BET I'D CARE TO MAKE..."

WOMAN!

THOU ART SURELY *SPIRITED.*

GUGGKKK
YUH.
YOU. YOUR POWER...
...I DIDN'T PLAN ON FIGHTING A VALKYRIE.
HURKK!
I'M NOT--
--HEFF--
--JUST A VALKYRIE--
I WAS MADE TO STOP GODS. SO, ARES--
STOP.
NO.
NO NO NO NO!

FALL!
FALL!
THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
GONNA NEED TO BRING A WHOLE LOT MORE.
SNIKT!
RRRRRRAAHHHHHHHH
GGGGRRRRRRRRAAAA
NO ESCAPE NOW, BOB.
NOT EVER.
TOO
TOO MANY OF THEM

DAMN YOU, SUMMERS--
I DON'T LOSE--WE DON'T LOSE!
AND YOU-- YOU, YOU, UPPITY LITTLE--
NORMAN--
NORMAN!
KARLA! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NORMAN, WE--
WE HAVE TO--
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM, NORMAN.
WE HAVE TO KILL THEM ALL IF WE'RE GOING TO WIN.
SO KILL THE BASTARDS, I DON'T CARE.
LOOK.

MR. OSBORN.
WE'RE ALL X-MEN NOW.
I GAVE YOU A CHANCE, OSBORN.
I TOLD YOU TO SURRENDER.
...
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING THIS, NORMAN.
AND IF WE KILL ONE OF THEM WE HAVE TO KILL THEM ALL.
NOBODY COMES BACK FROM COMMITTING GENOCIDE LIVE ON THE NIGHTLY NEWS...
FALL BACK.
THAT LOOKS LIKE CHECK AND MATE, BOSS.
ALMOST. ONE MORE WEAPON TO FIRE.
ONE MORE BOMB TO DROP...

AHH--HELLO AGAIN. MY NAME IS SCOTT SUMMERS AND I'VE BEEN AN X-MAN SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN.
AND LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HERE, I'VE BEEN A MUTANT ALL MY LIFE.
THIS GROUND--THIS CITY WE LIVE IN, JUST OFF YOUR SHORES--THIS FORTRESS WE OCCUPY--
THIS GROUND IS SACRED.
NO MUTANT OR THEIR FAMILY WILL BE HARMED HERE.
NO MUTANT BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED HERE.
OUR CHILDREN SHALL NOT BE HUNTED OR HARMED.
THEY SHALL NOT BE PREJUDICED AGAINST, LEGISLATED AGAINST, OR EVER GO TO SLEEP FOR A SINGLE UNSAFE MOMENT.
WE MAY HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR OUR SAFETY TONIGHT.
BUT I AM HERE TO PROMISE YOU, UNEQUIVOCALLY, WE MEAN YOU NO HARM. IN SPITE OF THE DECADES OF HARM INFLICTED UPON US PERSONALLY, PRIVATELY, OR AS A MATTER OF LAW.
WE HAVE BEEN, AND ALWAYS SHALL BE, SWORN TO PROTECT A WORLD THAT HATES AND DESPISES US.
ONLY NOW...
WE SHALL ALL BE FREE.

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, I STAND BEFORE YOU TO DECLARE THAT WE ARE FREE, AT LONG LAST, OF THE MILITANT MUTANT MENACE THAT HAS THREATENED OUR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING FOR SO LONG.
MY X-MEN-- ASSISTED BY MY AVENGERS, HAVE WON.
ALL CURFEWS AND MARTIAL LAW ORDERS ARE HEREBY RESCINDED.
THE AVENGERS, WHO HAVE SO TIRELESSLY AND FLAWLESSLY RESTORED LAW AND ORDER TO THE EAST COAST IN THE WAKE OF COUNTLESS CALAMITIES AND CATASTROPHES...
ASSISTED THE X-MEN FEARLESSLY WHO, IN SPITE OF DEFECTIONS, BETRAYALS, AND A RELATIVE NEWNESS TO BATTLE ON THIS SCALE, MANAGED TO FIGHT THE MUTANT MENACE COURAGEOUSLY.
I AM PROUD TO STAND WITH THEM TODAY.
THE MUTANT MENACE, AS LED BY THE MILITANT HATE-MONGER SCOTT SUMMERS, HAS EVACUATED AMERICAN SOIL ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WHAT THEY CALL UTOPIA, I CALL A PRISON. LET THEM STAY THERE. BECAUSE AS LONG AS THEY DO...
WE HAVE WON.
OZZIE...JUST BETWEEN US GIRLS...
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THE CRAP YOU'RE SHOVELING?
BELIEVE IT?
HAWKEYE, I NOT ONLY BELIEVE IT BUT I'M LIVING IT.
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. WHAT'S COMING NEXT IS GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

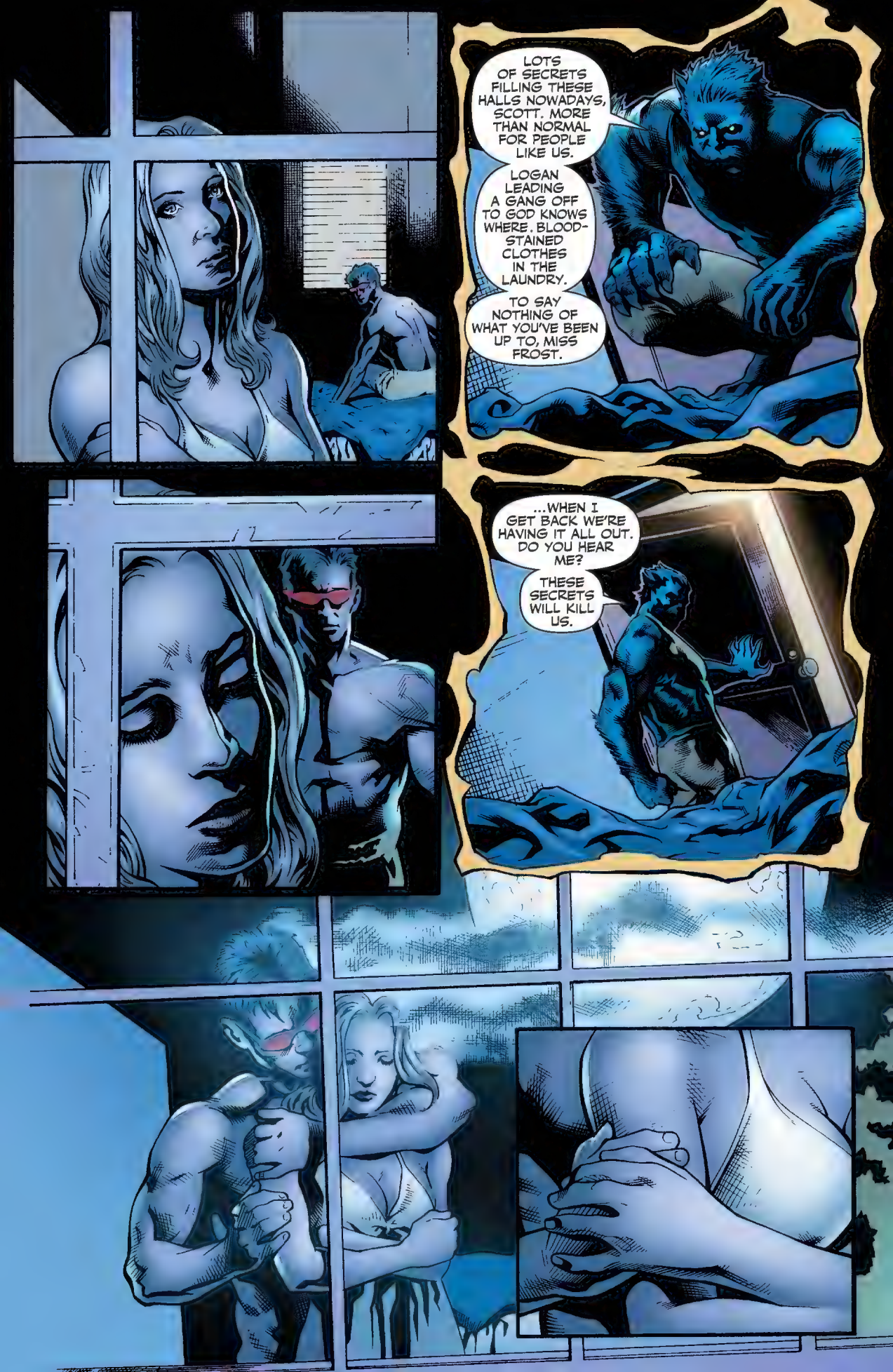
X UTOPIA
"SUMMERS."
SUMMERS!
SORRY. MILLION MILES AWAY.
WELL, SNAP OUT OF IT, MAN. WE HAVE A CITY TO BUILD.
THE TELEPORTERS ARE BRINGING IN STRAGGLERS AND FAMILIES. PEOPLE ARE COMING SEEKING AMNESTY. DOZENS AT A TIME.
THE MEDIC BAY IS FULL UP. THE HEALERS ARE WORKING ON GETTING FOLKS UP AND ON THEIR FEET, BUT THERE'S JUST SO MANY OF THEM.
YEAH.

BEEN UP THREE MINUTES, GUYS. SOMEBODY GET ME A CUP OF COFFEE AND WE'LL START DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS ONE AT A TIME.
DISMISSED.
...
YOU HEARD HIM.
WELL.
YOU DID IT.
WE DID IT, EMMA. YOU, ME--ALL OF US.
WE HAVE A HOMELAND NOW. AGAIN. I CAN'T BE THE FIRST TO REMIND YOU THAT THE LAST TIME WE LIVED ON AN ISLAND IT DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL.
THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
THE SAME WAY WE BEAT OSBORN. I HAVE FAITH.
AND I KNOW I'M NOT ALONE.

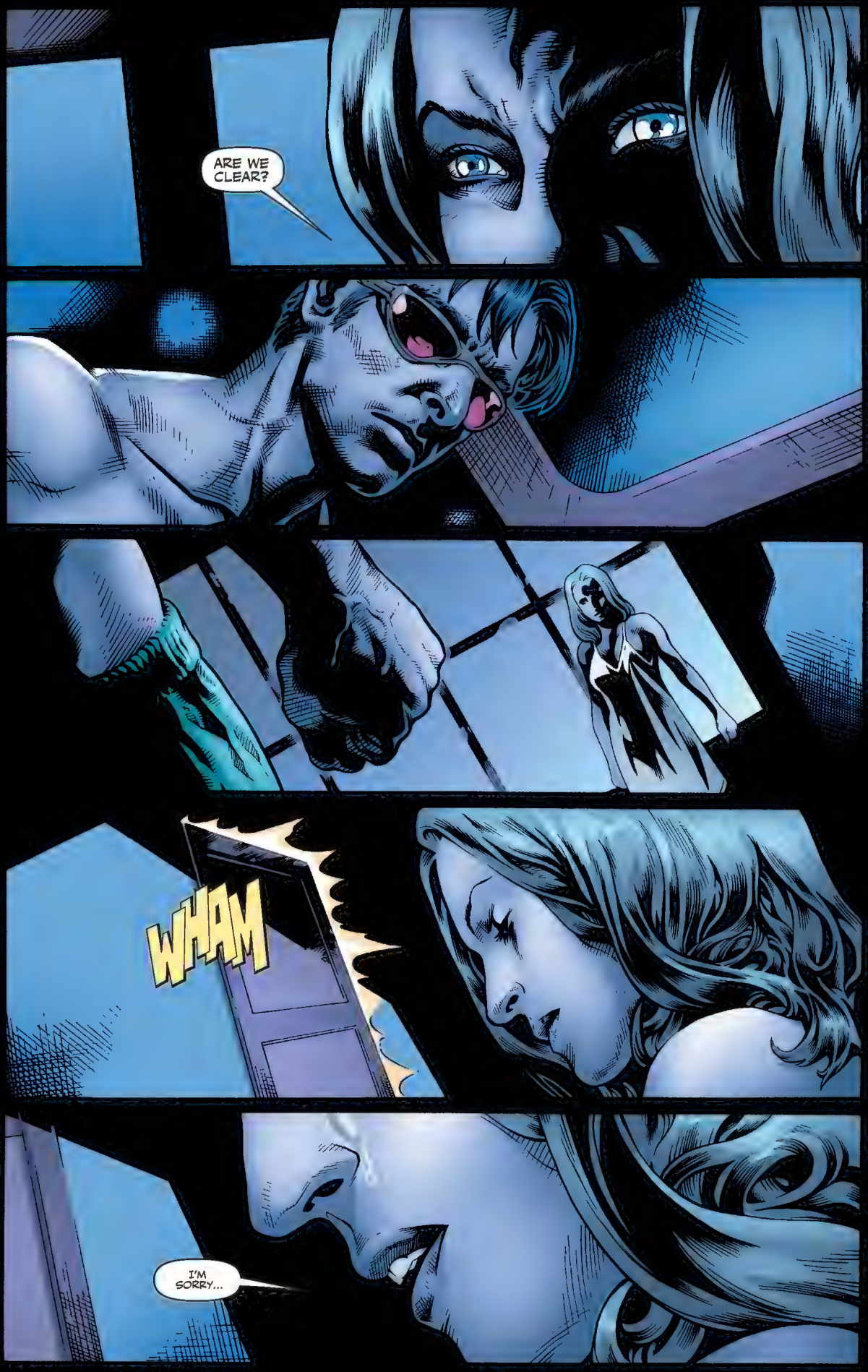
UTOPIA

DARK X-MEN
THE CONFESSION

GRAYMALKIN: 2 A.M.


LOTS OF SECRETS FILLING THESE HALLS NOWADAYS, SCOTT. MORE THAN NORMAL FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.
LOGAN LEADING A GANG OFF TO GOD KNOWS WHERE. BLOOD-STAINED CLOTHES IN THE LAUNDRY.
TO SAY NOTHING OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, MISS FROST.
...WHEN I GET BACK WE'RE HAVING IT ALL OUT. DO YOU HEAR ME?
THESE SECRETS WILL KILL US.

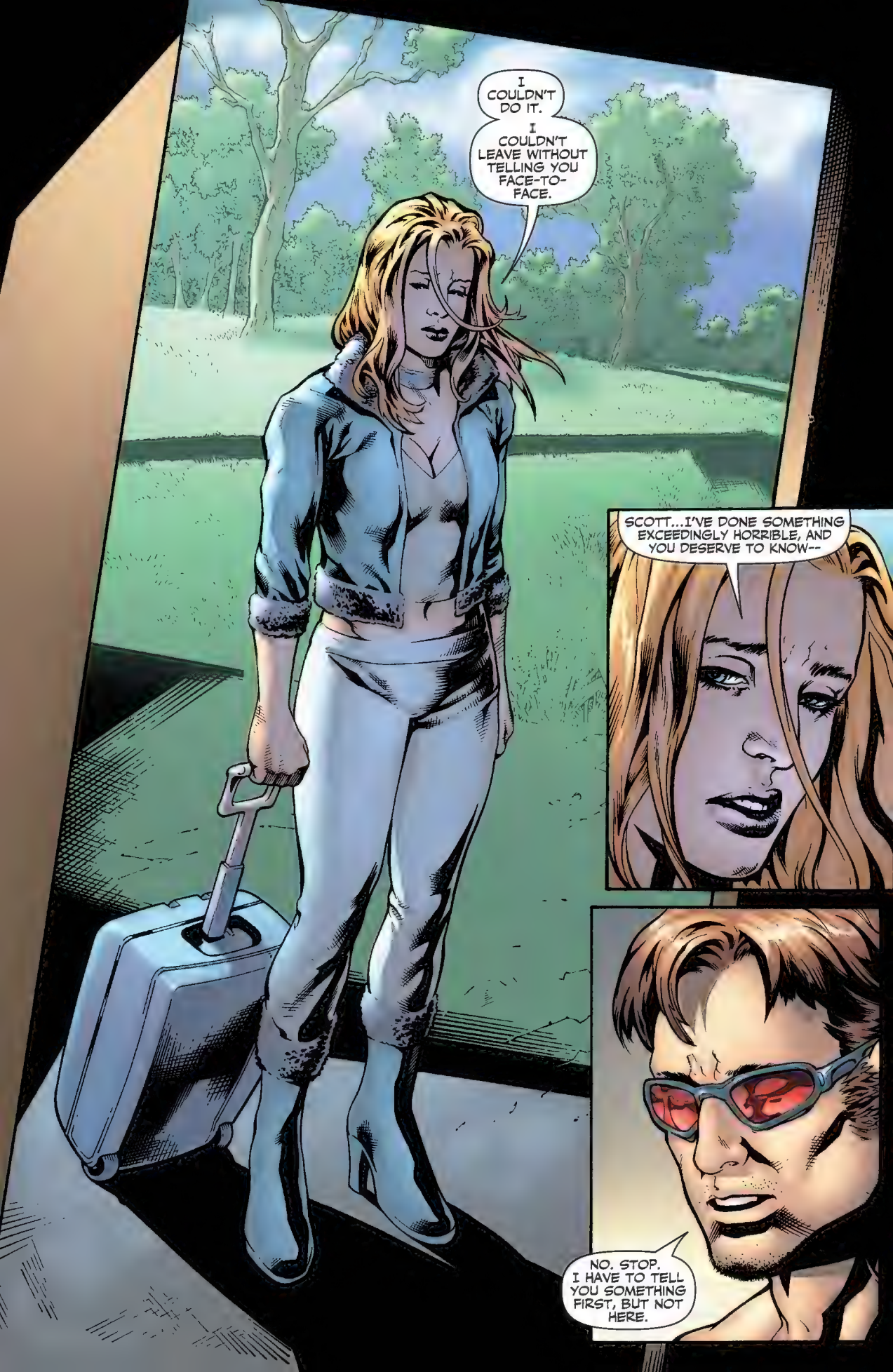
EMMA, I--
DON'T.
I SAID, STOP!
I'M NOT GOING TO DO THIS NOW, SCOTT. NOT FOR YOU. NOT FOR ANYONE.
SO IF YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR LITTLE HEART-TO-HEART WITH HENRY, THEN BY ALL MEANS DO. JUST LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.
EMMA, HANK WAS RIGHT.
SCOTT, PLEASE STOP...
NO. EMMA, WE NEED TO TALK. AND NOT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF THE OTHERS. WE NEED TO DO THIS FOR US. BECAUSE--


ARE WE CLEAR?
WHAM
I'M SORRY...

MISTER SUMMERS? CYCLOPS?
THAT COUCH LOOKS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE. YOU SHOULD COME STAY WITH US!
IS EVERYTHING OKAY, MISTER SUMMERS? YOU'VE, UM, BEEN SLEEPING ON THE COUCH A LOT.
SUBTLE, MEGAN.
FINE, HISAKO. EVERYTHING'S FINE.
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU KIDS WITH?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR MISS FROST. SHE MISSED HER MORNING TRAINING SESSION WITH THE STUDENTS. SHE NEVER MISSES CLASS.
DID YOU TRY HER ROOM?
DON'T YOU MEAN YOUR ROOM?
NOBODY ANSWERED.
EMMA?

EMMA? ARE YOU--?
EMMA?
Scott, M darling
NO.
CUCKOOS!! GET TO CEREBRO, NOW!
Scott. My darling....I have gone to kill a man. I
imagine surviving
encounter
mma

CONTACT PSYLOCKE, I WANT ALL OF YOU SCANNING FOR EMMA.
MISTER SUMMERS--
DO IT, PHOEBE!!
MOVE!
MISTER SUMMERS, WHAT--?
WHERE'S MISS FROST?!
I SAW HER GO OUT THE FRONT DOOR...
EMMA... EMMA, ANSWER ME, DAMMIT!!
EM--


I COULDN'T DO IT.
I COULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT TELLING YOU FACE-TO-FACE.
SCOTT...I'VE DONE SOMETHING EXCEEDINGLY HORRIBLE, AND YOU DESERVE TO KNOW--
NO. STOP. I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING FIRST, BUT NOT HERE.

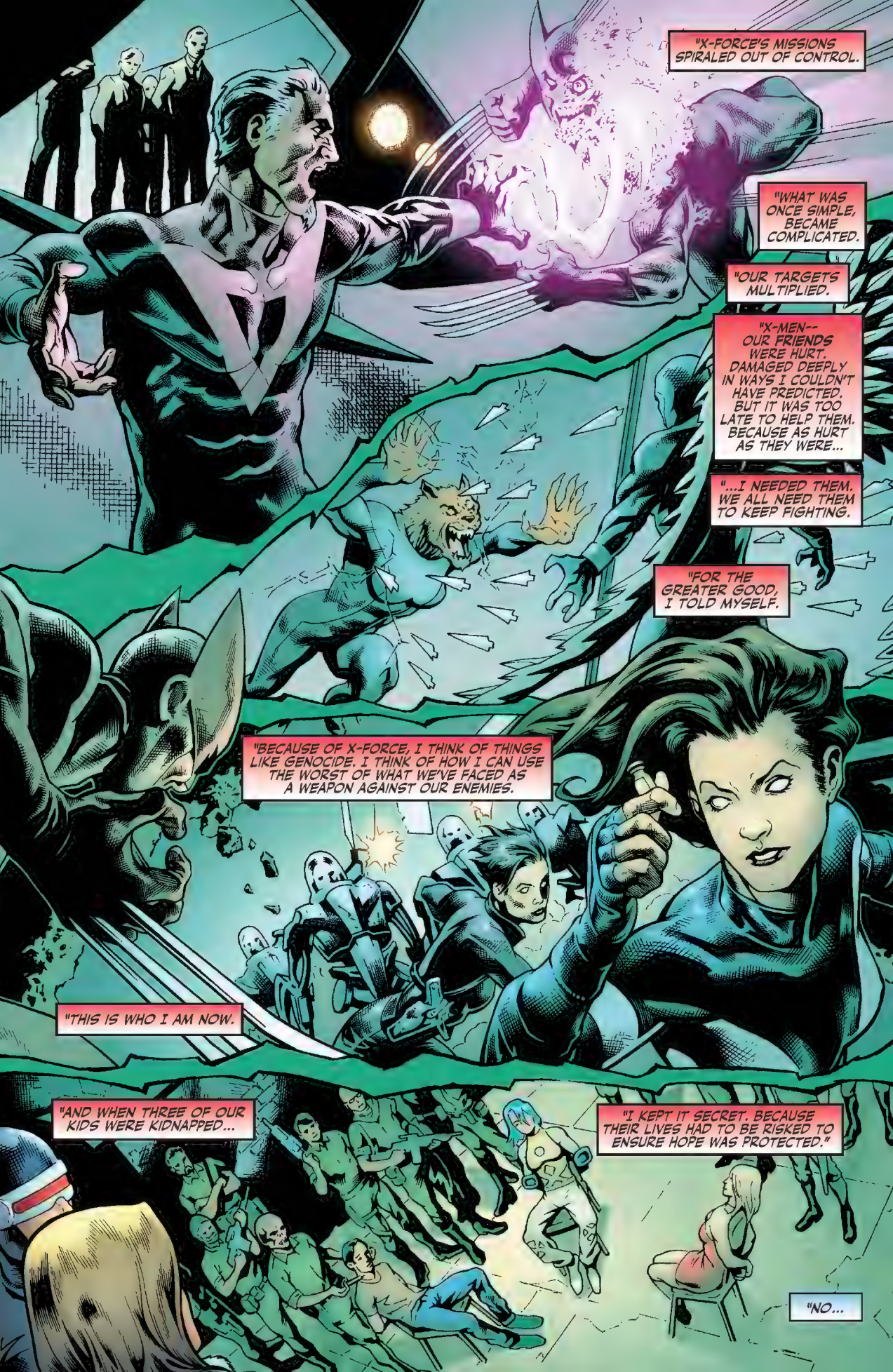
HOW INTIMATE.
IT'S PSI-SHIELDED.
NOW READ MY MIND.
WILL YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME?
AFTER WE'RE INSIDE. EMMA, PLEASE.
YOU'RE BEING INCREDIBLY FRUSTRATING. I AM TRYING TO BE OPEN WITH YOU.
DO YOU REALIZE HOW HARD THAT IS FOR ME?
COME ON.
I HAVE TRIED SO HARD TO *NOT* BE WHO I WAS. WHO IT IS SECOND NATURE FOR ME TO *BE*.
EMMA, I KNOW. BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND... I'M NOT WHO I WAS ANYMORE EITHER.
HOW IS THIS ABOUT YOU AGAIN?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN *READ* MY LETTER, DID YOU?
I READ ENOUGH OF IT TO KNOW YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE COMING BACK. THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.

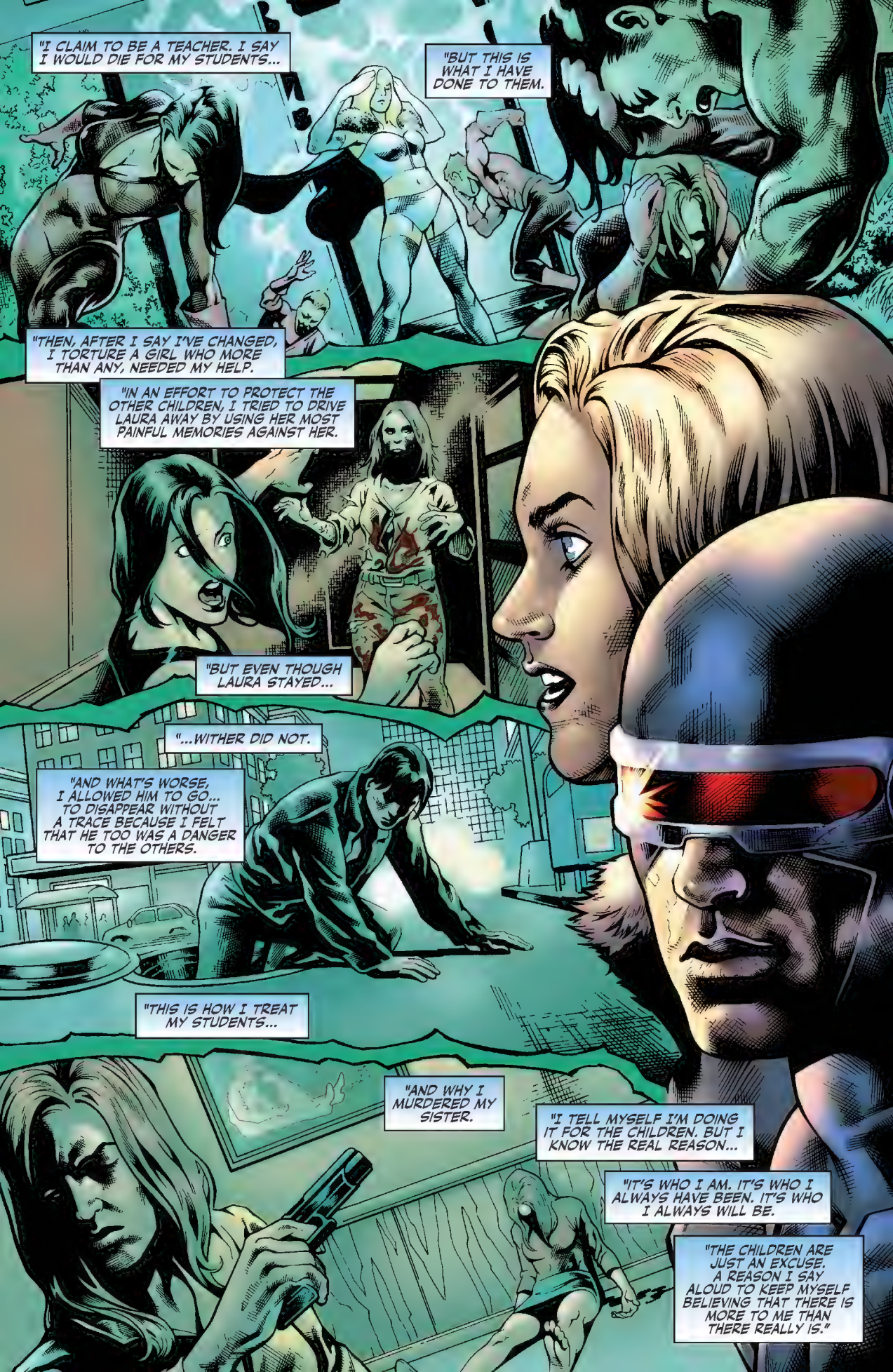
I COULDN'T LET THIS END HIDING THINGS FROM YOU.
I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE SECRETS BETWEEN US ANYMORE.
YOU KNOW I CAN'T OPEN IT.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO OPEN IT FOR YOU.
HONESTLY, SCOTT...I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE. WHATEVER SECRETS YOU'RE KEEPING ABOUT JEAN, THEY DON'T MATTER TO ME ANYMORE.
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING, AND YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH. WHAT I'VE DONE...I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING. BUT PLEASE KNOW, NO MATTER WHAT, I--
I KNOW YOU DO, EMMA. I KNOW.

YOU NEVER HAVE TO TELL ME THAT.
THIS IS ABOUT WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

"AFTER CABLE LEFT WITH THE BABY... AFTER CHARLES WAS SHOT... I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO.
"IT WENT AGAINST EVERYTHING I BELIEVED IN. EVERYTHING I WAS TAUGHT. EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG.
"BUT I DID IT ANYWAY.
"WOLVERINE KNEW WHAT I WAS ASKING, AND HE KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE. HE THOUGHT HE WAS HELPING ME STAY CLEAN. KEEPING THE BLOOD OFF MY HANDS.
"BUT HE KNEW WE WERE CROSSING A LINE, BOTH OF US. THAT THERE WAS NO GOING BACK.
"I HAD TO KEEP US ALIVE. UNTIL HOPE CAME BACK. AND STRATEGICALLY, THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY I KNEW HOW.
"SO I FORMED X-FORCE. AND I TOLD WOLVERINE TO TAKE HIS TEAM AND TO KILL.
"TO KILL THE ENEMY BEFORE THEY COULD KILL US."

"WHEN YOU FIRST MET ME WITH THE HELLFIRE CLUB, YOU SAW MY TRUE COLORS. WHITE, IRONICALLY.
"THIS IS WHERE I FIRST HURT YOU. I HELPED PUSH JEAN GREY INTO BECOMING THE DARK PHOENIX.
"EVERYONE THINKS THAT I SHARE YOUR BED BECAUSE I'M MANIPULATING YOU SOMEHOW. THEY BELIEVE THAT I COULDN'T POSSIBLY FEEL GENUINE EMOTION FOR YOU.
"AND THEY PITY YOU BECAUSE THEY KNOW YOU'RE BEING USED. PLAYED WITH, LIKE A TOY FOR MY AMUSEMENT.
"I'VE GIVEN THEM MANY REASONS TO BELIEVE THIS. PART OF TONY STARK DOESN'T RESPECT YOU BECAUSE OF ME.
"HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE."

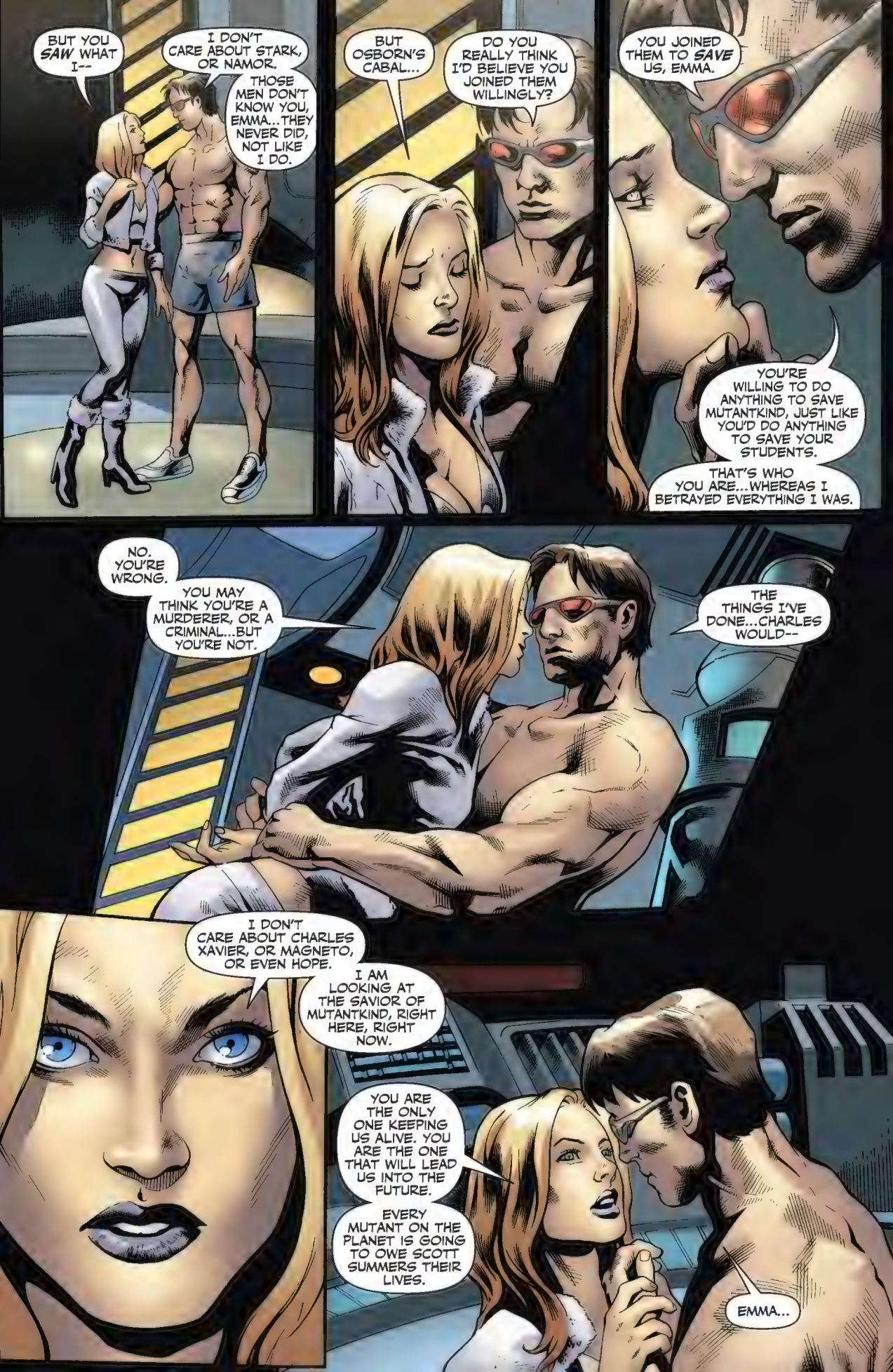

"X-FORCE'S MISSIONS SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL.
"WHAT WAS ONCE SIMPLE, BECAME COMPLICATED.
"OUR TARGETS MULTIPLIED.
"X-MEN-- OUR FRIENDS WERE HURT. DAMAGED DEEPLY IN WAYS I COULDN'T HAVE PREDICTED. BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO HELP THEM. BECAUSE AS HURT AS THEY WERE...
"...I NEEDED THEM. WE ALL NEED THEM TO KEEP FIGHTING.
"FOR THE GREATER GOOD, I TOLD MYSELF.
"BECAUSE OF X-FORCE, I THINK OF THINGS LIKE GENOCIDE. I THINK OF HOW I CAN USE THE WORST OF WHAT WE'VE FACED AS A WEAPON AGAINST OUR ENEMIES.
"THIS IS WHO I AM NOW.
"AND WHEN THREE OF OUR KIDS WERE KIDNAPPED...
"I KEPT IT SECRET. BECAUSE THEIR LIVES HAD TO BE RISKED TO ENSURE HOPE WAS PROTECTED."
"NO..."


"I CLAIM TO BE A TEACHER. I SAY I WOULD DIE FOR MY STUDENTS...
"BUT THIS IS WHAT I HAVE DONE TO THEM.
"THEN, AFTER I SAY I'VE CHANGED, I TORTURE A GIRL WHO MORE THAN ANY, NEEDED MY HELP.
"IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE OTHER CHILDREN, I TRIED TO DRIVE LAURA AWAY BY USING HER MOST PAINFUL MEMORIES AGAINST HER.
"BUT EVEN THOUGH LAURA STAYED...
"...WITHER DID NOT.
"AND WHAT'S WORSE, I ALLOWED HIM TO GO... TO DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE BECAUSE I FELT THAT HE TOO WAS A DANGER TO THE OTHERS.
"THIS IS HOW I TREAT MY STUDENTS...
"AND WHY I MURDERED MY SISTER.
"I TELL MYSELF I'M DOING IT FOR THE CHILDREN. BUT I KNOW THE REAL REASON...
"IT'S WHO I AM. IT'S WHO I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. IT'S WHO I ALWAYS WILL BE.
"THE CHILDREN ARE JUST AN EXCUSE. A REASON I SAY ALOUD TO KEEP MYSELF BELIEVING THAT THERE IS MORE TO ME THAN THERE REALLY IS."

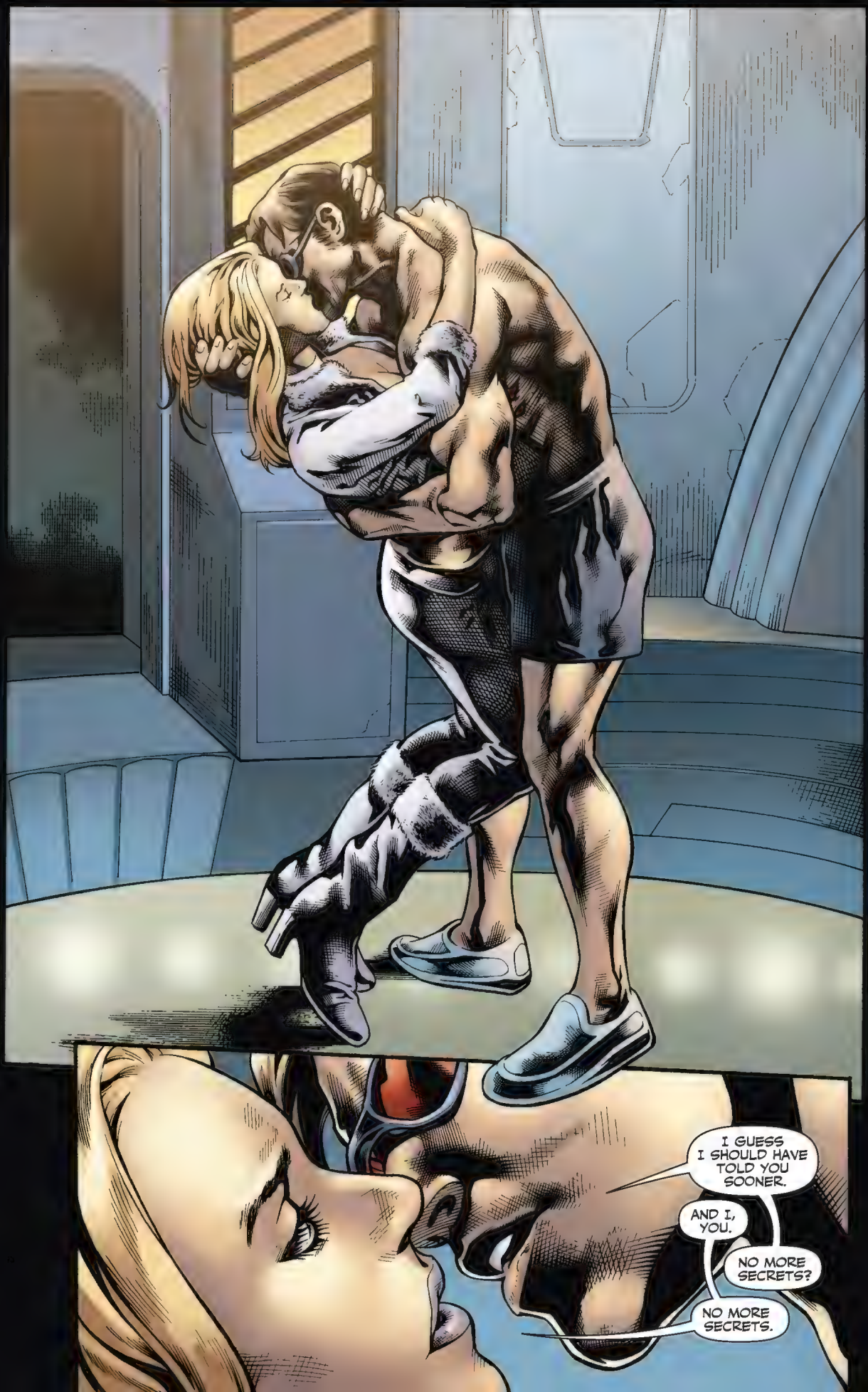
"AFTER LOOKING FOR CABLE AND HOPE FOR MONTHS, BEAST FINDS THEM FOR ME.
"I DON'T ASK HIM TO BRING THEM BACK. I TELL X-FORCE TO GO AFTER THEM... TO GO AFTER BISHOP.
"AGAIN I MAKE X-FORCE GO TO WAR FOR ME, EVEN WITH THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS ON THE LINE.
"LOGAN TELLS ME TO WAIT. TO SEND SOMEONE ELSE, BUT I CAN'T.
"I CAN'T ASK THE X-MEN TO COMMIT MURDER.
"IF THE X-MEN CROSS THE LINES X-FORCE HAS...IF THEY DO WHAT I'VE FORCED THE OTHERS TO DO, THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT TO SAVE WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER.
"THE DREAM WILL TRULY BE DEAD."

THE DREAM IS DEAD BECAUSE I KILLED IT, SCOTT.
I HAVEN'T CHANGED. I KNOW THIS, BECAUSE NORMAN OSBORN CAME TO ME.
NOT MAGNETO. NOT SHAW. NOT SINISTER.
ME.
"HE WANTED ME TO JOIN HIS CABAL.
"HE KNEW I WOULD FIT RIGHT IN. AND HE WAS RIGHT.
"OSBORN HAD TAKEN OVER THE WORLD, AND I KNEW IT. I KNEW IT, AND I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
"I SOLD ALL OF MUTANTKIND FOR MY PLACE AT HIS TABLE."

I'M SORR--
I LOVE YOU.


BUT YOU SAW WHAT I--
I DON'T CARE ABOUT STARK, OR NAMOR.
THOSE MEN DON'T KNOW YOU, EMMA...THEY NEVER DID, NOT LIKE I DO.
BUT OSBORN'S CABAL...
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D BELIEVE YOU JOINED THEM WILLINGLY?
YOU JOINED THEM TO SAVE US, EMMA.
YOU'RE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO SAVE MUTANTKIND, JUST LIKE YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO SAVE YOUR STUDENTS.
THAT'S WHO YOU ARE...WHEREAS I BETRAYED EVERYTHING I WAS.
NO. YOU'RE WRONG.
YOU MAY THINK YOU'RE A MURDERER, OR A CRIMINAL...BUT YOU'RE NOT.
THE THINGS I'VE DONE...CHARLES WOULD--
I DON'T CARE ABOUT CHARLES XAVIER, OR MAGNETO, OR EVEN HOPE.
I AM LOOKING AT THE SAVIOR OF MUTANTKIND, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE KEEPING US ALIVE. YOU ARE THE ONE THAT WILL LEAD US INTO THE FUTURE.
EVERY MUTANT ON THE PLANET IS GOING TO OWE SCOTT SUMMERS THEIR LIVES.
EMMA...

BUT YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT MY REASONS, SCOTT.
THROUGH ALL OF THIS...EVERYTHING I'VE DONE...MY BIGGEST FEAR WAS LOSING YOU.
I WAS GOING TO KILL OSBORN. THAT'S WHAT MY NOTE SAID. THAT I WOULD BE KILLED TRYING.
AND HONESTLY... I PREFERRED DEATH TO YOU BELIEVING I HAD BETRAYED YOU. I'VE BEEN HOLDING THIS IN FOR SO LONG...
I TRUST YOU, EMMA. WITH MY LIFE. WITH ALL OF OUR LIVES. I TOLD MYSELF THAT I WAS KEEPING EVERYTHING FROM YOU TO GIVE YOU PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY.
BUT THAT WAS A LIE. I KEPT THE TRUTH FROM YOU BECAUSE I THOUGHT I'D LOSE YOU OVER IT.
HARDLY. NEVER ONCE HAVE I DOUBTED YOU. NEVER *ONCE* HAS MY TRUST IN YOU BEEN LESS THAN ABSOLUTE.
BUT YOU KNOW THAT WHEN THIS IS ALL SAID AND DONE, WE'LL BE CAST OUT. BY THE X-MEN, BY THE AVENGERS...BY *EVERYONE*.
I DON'T CARE.
ARE YOU SURE?
JUST SHUT UP AND KISS ME.


I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER.
AND I, YOU.
NO MORE SECRETS?
NO MORE SECRETS.

"DO YOU TRUST ME?"
"FOREVER."

UTOPIA X-MEN LEGACY #226

PREVIOUSLY...

While the X-Man Rogue is in the Australian Outback grappling for control of her mutant power, the mutant community in San Francisco is rocked when the Humanity Now! Coalition—led by Simon Trask—introduces Proposition X, an initiative that would require all humans who are X-gene positive undergo mandatory chemical birth control procedures.

When the Humanity Now! Coalition marches on San Francisco, they are quickly met by anti-Proposition X protestors. Violence and riot erupt, and Cyclops dispatches the X-Men to restore order. But Norman Osborn—head of the national peacekeeping organization H.A.M.M.E.R.—publicly brands Cyclops an instigatorand deploys his Dark Avengers to quell the conflict and arrest anyone who stands in their way.

*These events happen during the riots in Dark Avengers/Uncanny X-Men: Utopia #1

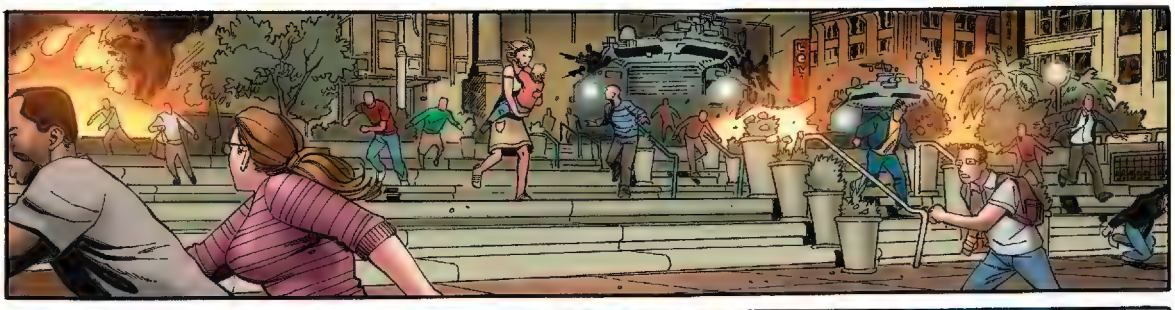
THE CORAL SEA. LATITUDE 9° 40S, 159° 90E.
LOCAL TIME: 1900 HRS.
I DON'T FEEL HAPPY PUSHING DIS LITTLE TOY PLANE UP TO MACH 2.
GAMBIT
DANGER
ROGUE
I'VE MODIFIED THE PLANE FOR INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHT. IT WILL HOLD.
YOU SAY. I'D STILL LIKE A SECOND OPINION.
THIS HAS GOT TO BE BETTER THAN A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT, REMY. WHEREVER THEY GO, THE X-MEN TEND TO BE MAGNETS FOR ALL KINDS OF--
--WEIRDNESS.
UHH...I COME IN PEACE. HONEST!
IT'S NOT AN ATTACK, DANGER. LET PIXIE BE.
RIGHT. NOT AN ATTACK. MORE OF A CAB RIDE.
CYCLOPS GOT YOUR MESSAGE, SAYING YOU WERE COMING.
BUT HE NEEDS YOU RIGHT NOW. SIHAL NOVARUM CHINOTH!

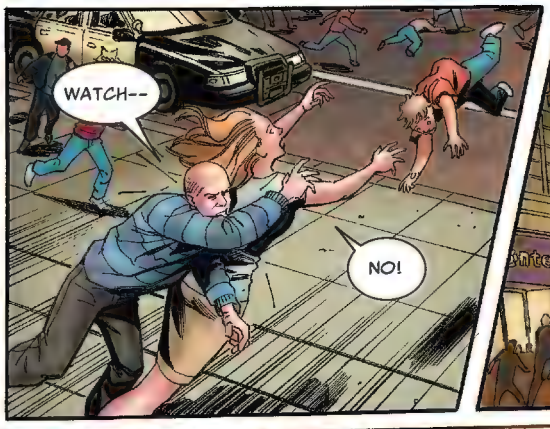
THE TENDERLOIN. SAN FRANCISCO.
LOCAL TIME 2300 HRS.
THERE. AROUND UNION SQUARE. THE CROWD CAN'T MOVE, AND THAT H.A.M.M.E.R. TEAM IS MOVING IN.
KURT, YOU WANT TO DROP ME OFF?
NATÜRLICH.
ROGUE. YOU'RE IN ODD COMPANY.
LONG STORY, SCOTT. BUT AH'M VOUCHING FOR REMY, AND FOR DANGER.
YOU'RE VOUCHING FOR THEM? MAYBE YOU THINK YOUR STOCK IS HIGHER THAN IT IS.
WHEN YOU ESCAPED FROM THE MARAUDERS, YOU WENT OFF WITHOUT A WORD OF EXPLANATION.
AFTER MOST OF US HAD RISKED OUR LIVES TWICE TO GET YOU FREE.
GET TO DE POINT, CYCLOPS.
REMY--

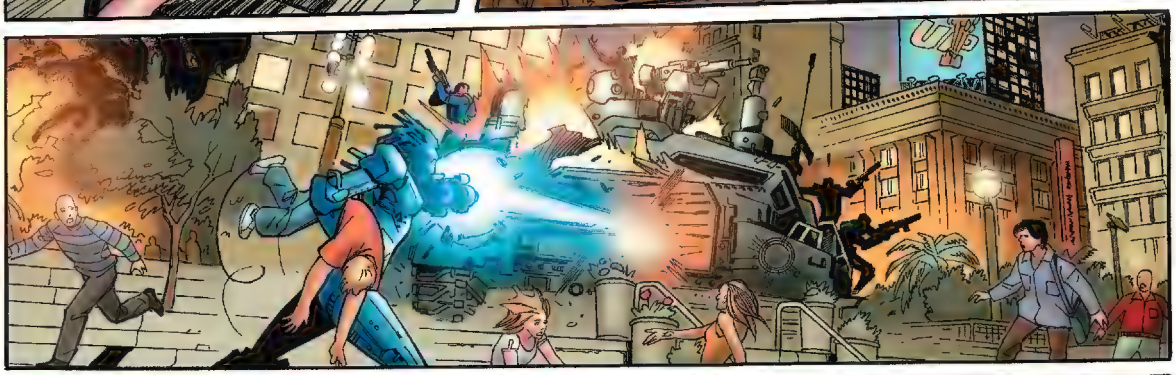
NO, HE'S RIGHT. THERE'S NO TIME TO GO OVER THIS. AND I NEED YOU ALL.
WHICH SHOULD GIVE YOU A FAIR IDEA OF HOW BAD THINGS ARE.
AN ANTI-MUTANT HATE GROUP GOADED SOME HOTHEADS INTO A MELEE. NOW THE GOVERNMENT HAS LET THE DOGS OUT.
NORMAN OSBORN'S H.A.M.M.E.R., AND HIS SO-CALLED AVENGERS, THINGS ARE FALLING APART FAST OUT THERE.
DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH OSBORN. HE FOUGHT SPIDER-MAN BACK IN THE DAY, AS THE GREEN GOBLIN.
NOW HE WEARS GIANFRANCO FERRE, AND SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.
THE BOTTOM LINE: SOME OF OUR STUDENTS ARE STILL OUT THERE. OTHER MUTANTS, TOO, WHO WERE JUST IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
SO WHAT'S YOUR FIRST PRIORITY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
PUT US WHERE YOU NEED US, CYCLOPS.

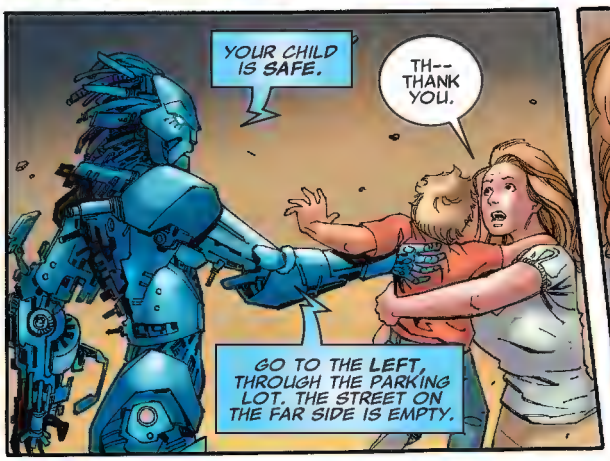
"WE'LL HANDLE WHATEVER COMES."
SUPPRESSING FIRE
PART 1 OF 2

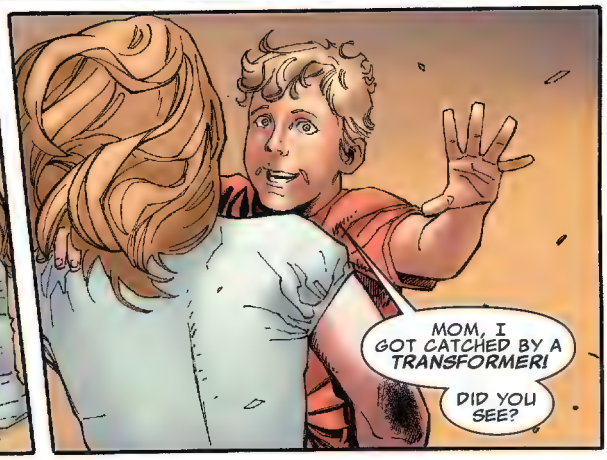
16TH AND GUERRERO.
LOCAL TIME: 23.07.
YOU SEE ANY MUTANTS HERE?
NO. BUT THE CUCKOOS DID. INDRA AND TRANCE ARE SOMEWHERE CLOSE.
IN THE MEANTIME, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE IN THIS STAMPEDE. DO WHAT YOU CAN.




WATCH--
NO!




YOUR CHILD IS SAFE.
TH-- THANK YOU.
GO TO THE LEFT, THROUGH THE PARKING LOT. THE STREET ON THE FAR SIDE IS EMPTY.

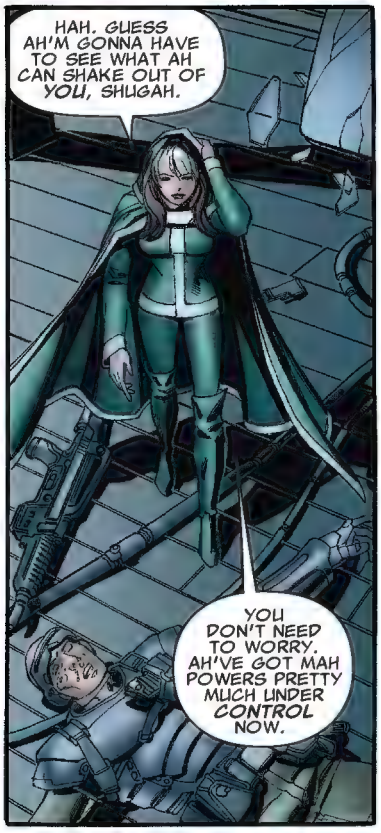

MOM, I GOT CATCHED BY A TRANSFORMER!
DID YOU SEE?

20TH AND MISSION. LOCAL TIME 23.11.
TRANCE
GOT A VISUAL ON ONE OF THE LISTED PERPS. MORTIMER TOYNBEE: TOAD.
THREE-BRAVO MOVING IN TO APPREHEND.
DRAGONESS
TOAD
DRAGONESS--
JUST KEEP GOING. I'LL COVER YOU.
I CAN'T. IT'S A DEAD END. OH GOD!
ALL OUT OF CHARGE, MUTIE?
YOU'VE BEEN SLINGING IT AROUND. LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE IT.
WHUDD
HEY! GUYS!
THIS ONE'S TRYING TO PULL SOMETHING!

TZZAT
AHHRRR!
OH MY GOD, MAN, YOU FRIED HER. COMMAND SAID--
I KNOW WHAT COMMAND SAID.
IF SHE DIES, WE WERE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
HOMME, IF SHE DIES--
--YOU'RE GONNA BE IN A WHOLE LOT OF SOMEWHERE ELSES.

TRANCE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
MR. LEBEAU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
LONG STORY.
H-HELP! HELP ME! CAN'T--
HELP ME!
I WILL, PETITE. I PROMISE. JUST GOT TO GET YOU TO BEAST, SO HE CAN--
...
I DON'T KNOW YOU. ARE YOU AN X-MAN?
GAMBIT, RIGHT? CYCLOPS SENT US.
ACCORDING TO THE CUCKOOS, YOU'VE GOT A CASUALTY HERE. WE'LL TAKE HER.
THE NAME'S ARIEL AND, YES, I'VE BEEN DEPUTIZED.
DEN WHERE'S YOUR BADGE?
RIGHT HERE IN MY DOUBLE HELIX.

CLINTON PARK.
LOCAL TIME 23.18.
INDRA?
PARAS?
ARE YOU IN HERE?


HAH. GUESS AH'M GONNA HAVE TO SEE WHAT AH CAN SHAKE OUT OF YOU, SHUGAH.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. AH'VE GOT MAH POWERS PRETTY MUCH UNDER CONTROL NOW.

SO AH'M NEARLY CERTAIN AH CAN SKIM YOUR SURFACE MEMORIES--
--WITHOUT WIPING YOUR ENTIRE MIND.

WISH ME LUCK.

TOLD YOU TO STOP, KID.
GULIH!
TOLD YOU TO ASSUME THE DAMN POSITION.

BUT I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING! I JUST WANTED TO GET HOME.
TO SEE IF MY FRIENDS WERE OKAY!
STILL SHOULD'VE DONE WHAT YOU WERE TOLD, STILL NEED A LITTLE LESSON IN GOOD MANNERS.
YOU'RE NOT THE LAW!
RAAAGH!
GOOD FOR YOU, PARAS. AH'M PROUD OF YOU.
NOW IF AH COULD JUST FIND OUT WHERE YOU WENT AFTER--
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSAULTING A H.A.M.M.E.R. OFFICER IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS DUTY.

OH, AND TALKING TO YOURSELF IS THE FIRST SIGN OF *MADNESS*. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET SOME *HELP* FOR THAT.
BUT FRANKLY, SCARLETT--
--I DON'T *GIVE* A DAMN.
TSHRAKKKK

YOU'RE NOT CAROL.
WHAT'S IN A NAME? OR A COSTUME, FOR THAT MATTER?
YOU'RE ROGUE. YOUR POWERS DEPEND ON TOUCH.
BUT TOUCHING ME IS SOMETHING OF A ONE-SIDED PROPOSITION.
NUUH!
DEALER'S RULES.
THWUKK
YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?
SO YEAH, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SILENT. AND IN TODAY'S THREE-FOR-ONE OFFER--
--THE RIGHT TO BE CONCUSSED, AND THE RIGHT TO BE UNCONSCIOUS.

HAVE TO UPDATE THE FILE, THOUGH. THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPER STRONG, INVULNERABLE, STUFF LIKE THAT.
I SURVIVE.
YOU THINK? THE GUN WON'T HELP YOU, BY THE WAY, BUT FEEL FREE.
THANKS.
AH WILL.
BRUKKABRUKKABRUKKABRUKKABRUK

KRESCHHH
WELL DAMN.
MS. MARVEL TO COMMAND. I ENGAGED ROGUE, BUT SHE GOT AWAY.
FROM YOU?
CAN IT.
"SHE SHOT OUT THE CEILING. I GHOSTED BY REFLEX AND SHE RAN RIGHT THROUGH ME.
"I'M ON IT. BUT JUDGING FROM THE WAY SHE WENT--
"--SHE'S GOING TO WISH SHE'D PLAYED NICER WITH ME."

CASTRO STREET.
LOCAL TIME 23.41.
DROWSKY FESTIVAL
US Bank
CASTRO NAIL SALON
GET LOST, PORKCHOPS! THIS IS OUR CITY!
YEAH, THIS IS MUTANT TOWN WEST. YOU MESS WITH US, THERE'LL BE NOTHIN' LEFT OF YOU BUT TEETH!
PLEASE, JUST DISPERSE. THAT'S ALL WE'RE ASKING YOU TO DO...
YOU HEARD THE MAN, AVALANCHE. YOU'RE PICKIN' THE WRONG FIGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE.
GAMBIT! ALL RIIIIGHT!
STAND WITH US!
NON, MERCI. ONLY A FOOL STARTS A FIGHT HE CAN'T WIN.
WE DIDN'T START IT. HUMANITY NOW! DID THAT WHEN THEY WALKED THROUGH OUR CITY.
AND SOMEWHERE THEY GOT TO BE LAUGHING NOW. SEEING YOU MAKING THEIR POINT FOR THEM.
MAKING THE WORLD SEE MUTANTS BACKLIT BY BURNING CARS.
HEY, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO.
SHOW THEM WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF WHEN WE TAKE THE GLOVES OFF. SHOW THEM WHO THEY'RE MESSING WITH.
GOOD. SHOW THEM YOU DON'T RISE TO SUCKER BAIT.
GET OUT OF OUR WAY, LEBEAU. WE'RE TAKING THESE BLACKSHIRTS DOWN.
DÉSOLÉ. NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

NEW ORDERS. FALL BACK.
FALL BACK? WHO'S GONNA HOLD THE LINE HERE?
WELL, IF I HAD TO GUESS--
--I'D SAY HE IS.
RECREANTS AND BRINGERS OF CHAOS.
YOU WERE WARNED, AND YOU DID NOT HEED.
SO WEEP!

STRO NAIL SALON
us bank
bank
MAKE THE EARTH RISE AGAINST ME.
MAKE STOLID STONE REAR UP LIKE A STARTLED JADE.
IT WILL NOT PROFIT YOU.
KKHHH...
HEY, BIG, GREEK AND UGLY, GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO DISPERSE. THE STREET'S BLOCKED BEHIND THEM.
IS THAT A WEAPON, LITTLE MAN?
OR ARE YOU HERE AS AN ENTERTAINER?

EITHER WAY, I EXPECT THE DIVERSION TO BE BOTH SHORT AND FORGETTABLE.
IF YOU THINK I MIGHT SLIP YOUR MIND, HOMME--
--BETTER TAKE MY CARD.
usban
SHRAKK
KRAK
usbank

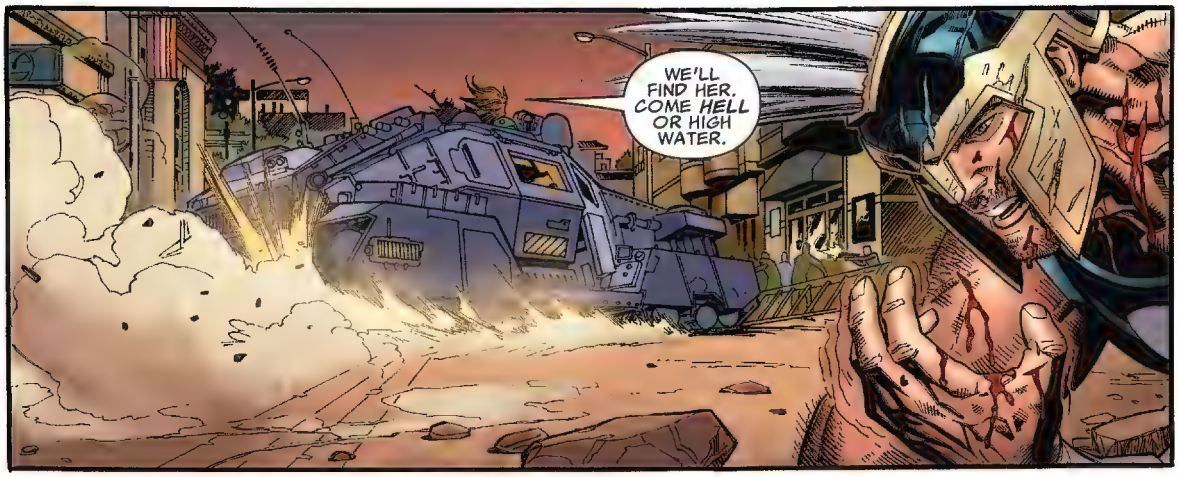
REMY!
30
I FEARED THAT THIS CITY WOULD OFFER NO WARRIOR WORTH MY METTLE.
AND SO IT PROVES.
SO IT PROVES.

I'S DELI
BEER . LIQUOR
YOU PROBABLY WANT TO LEAVE IT AT THAT, SHUGAH.
WOMAN, MY WAY HAS BEEN BARRED ONCE TONIGHT ALREADY. STAND ASIDE.
OR I'LL TREAD YOU UNDER LIKE A GRAPE.
ONCE UPON A TIME, AH WOULD HAVE THROWN YOU HALFWAY TO THE MOON FOR A CRACK LIKE THAT.
GOD HELP ME IF AH START TO MISS THOSE DAYS.
GUESS AH'LL HAVE TO DO THE BEST AH CAN WITH WHAT AH GOT.
NNNFF!
IMBECILE!
YOU CAN'T--
AHHRRR!

DANGER, YOU--YOU HAVE TO BREAK THE CONTACT. HE'S A GOD!
ROGUE CAN'T CONTAIN THAT MUCH POWER!
IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR HER TO TAKE A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF.
BUT HER HEART RATE IS ALREADY WELL OUTSIDE THE HUMAN NORM.
SHE'S UNLIKELY TO SURVIVE THIS UNLESS WE SEPARATE THEM.
SO PLEASE.
IMBUE THIS OBJECT WITH POTENTIAL ENERGY.
AND WE'LL SEE IF IT HAS THE NECESSARY PROPERTIES FOR A CIRCUIT BREAKER.
WHOOM

ROGUE! HOW DO YOU FEEL, MA CHÉRE?
D-DIZZY! BUT, REMY--SO MUCH--SO STRONG!
STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK? OR BETTER STILL, TO RUN AWAY?
YEAH. AH THINK SO.
BUT RUNNING'S NO GOOD, DANGER. NOT THROUGH THIS CROWD.
AH GOT A BETTER IDEA.
STAY BACK, LADY.
YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP, AND I'M GONNA--
MARCELLOS
PIZZA SLICES
OKAY.
WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A RIDE.

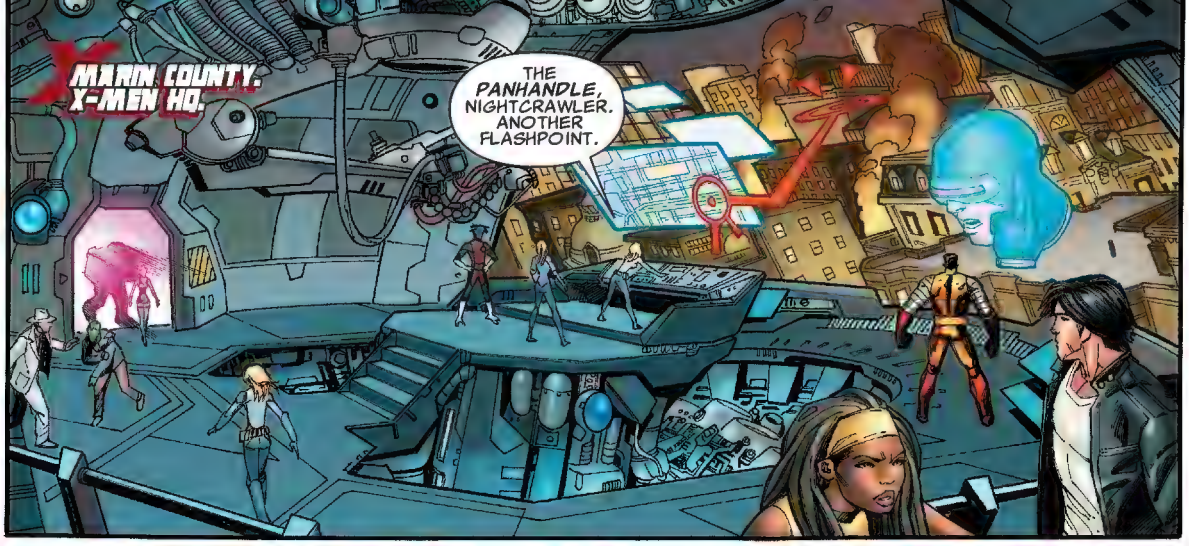
ROGUE.
YES, MINDEE?
HOW ARE YOU, GIRL? LONG TIME.
YES. WE SENT A TEAM TO COLLECT TRANCE AND BRING HER TO DR. McCOY. NOW HE'S MISSING, TOO, AND TRANCE DIDN'T MAKE IT HOME.
HER THOUGHTS ARE BLURRED-- SCATTERED. BUT WE THINK SHE MIGHT BE CLOSE TO WHERE YOU ARE.
MORE

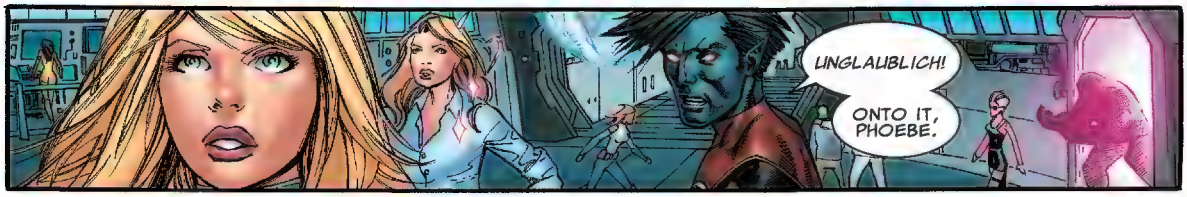

WE'LL FIND HER. COME HELL OR HIGH WATER.

ROGUE OUT.
ASTRO
WOODROWSKY
FILMS

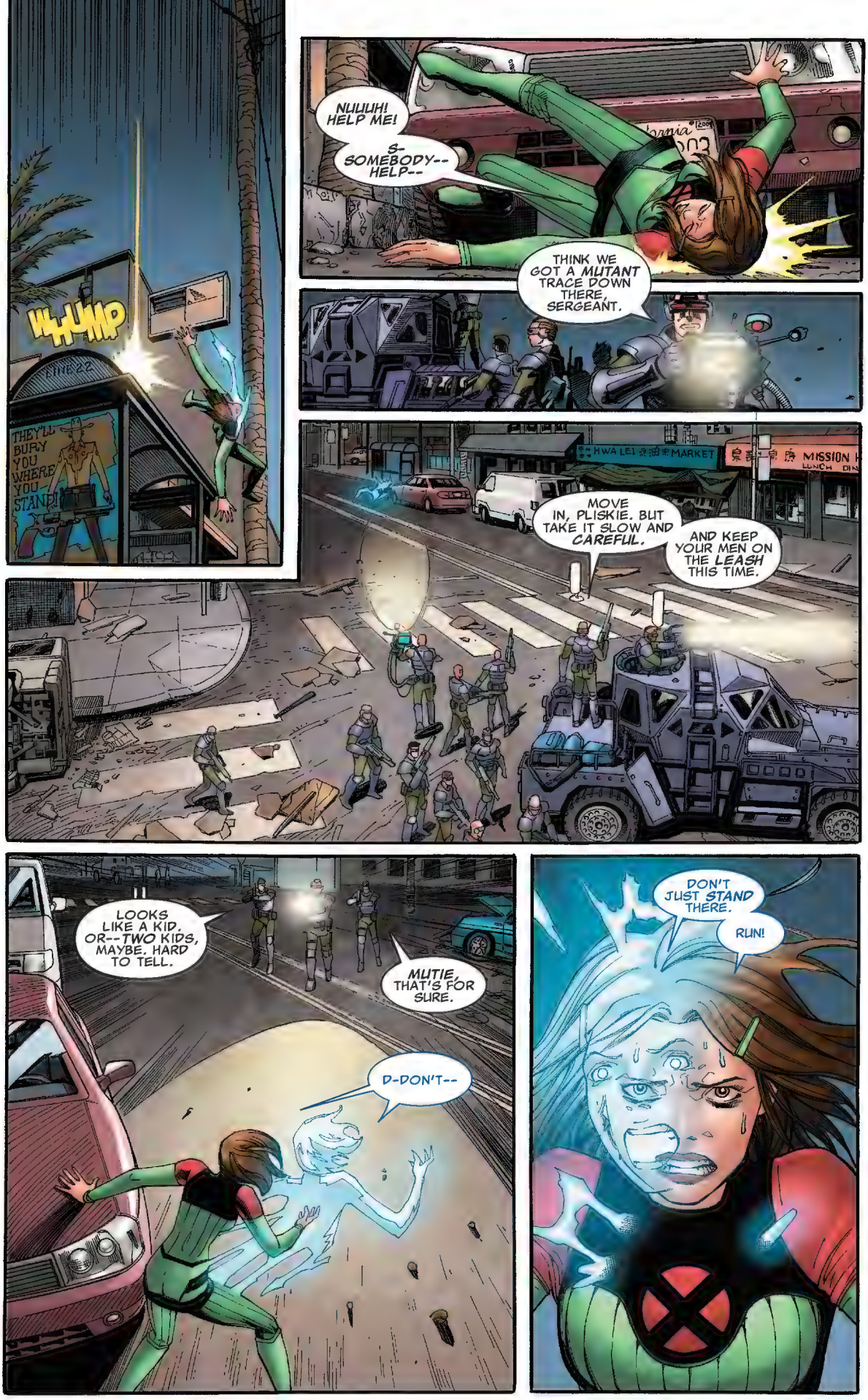
UTOPIA X-MEN LEGACY #227

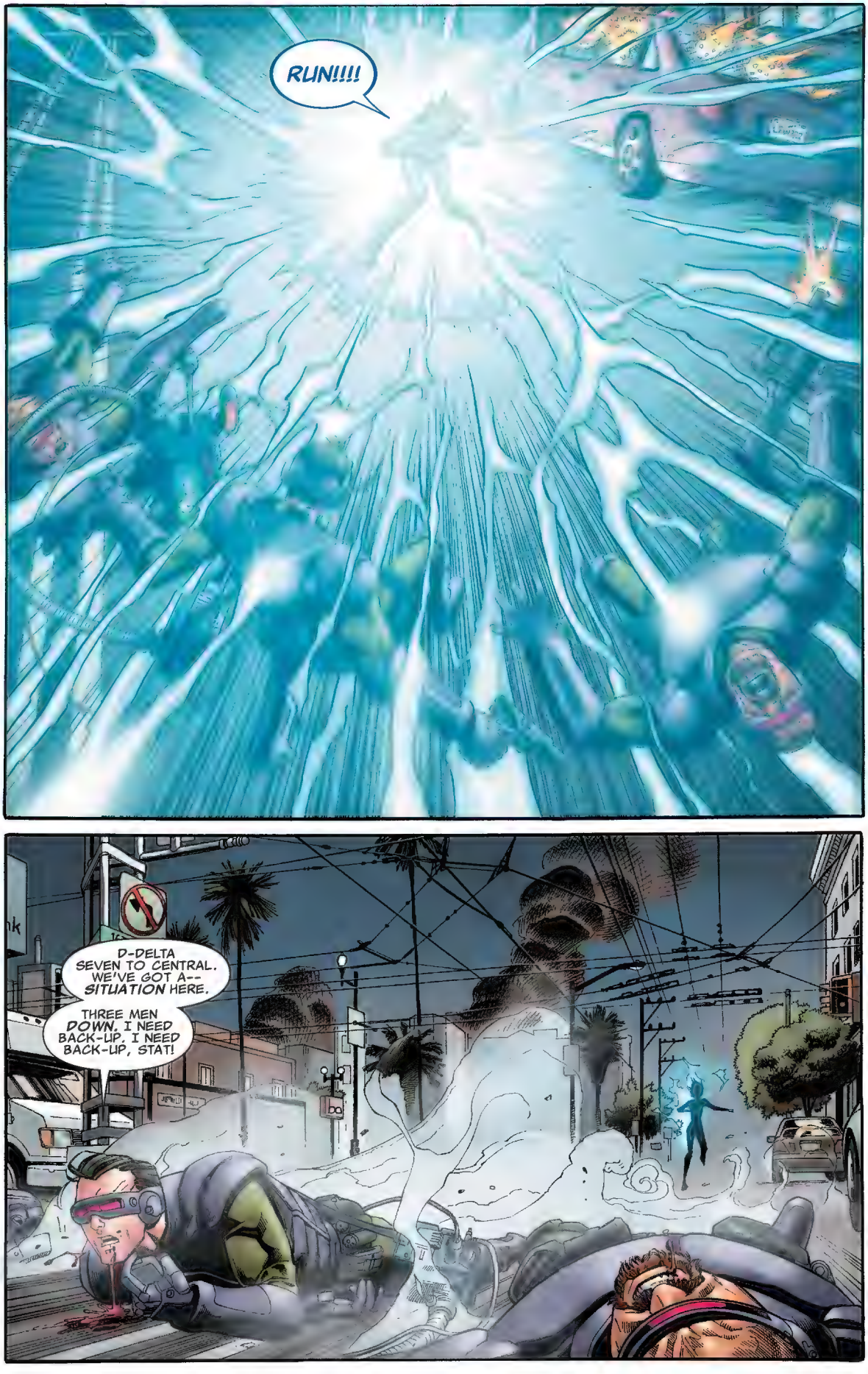
AHHRRRR!
THE MISSION DISTRICT, SAN FRANCISCO. ONE HOUR AGO.
GAMBIT, RIGHT? CYCLOPS SENT US.
ACCORDING TO THE CUCKOOS, YOU'VE GOT A CASUALTY HERE. WE'LL TAKE HER.
I DON'T KNOW YOU. ARE YOU AN X-MAN?
THE NAME'S ARIEL AND, YES, I'VE BEEN DEPUTIZED.
DEN WHERE'S YOUR BADGE?
RIGHT HERE IN MY DOUBLE HELIX.
TAKE CARE OF HER. SHE WAS HIT BY A TASER AS SHE WAS USING HER SPIRIT-WALK POWER.
NOW SHE CAN'T SEPARATE OR MERGE. SHE'S TRAPPED HALFWAY.
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE TAKING HER STRAIGHT BACK TO BASE.
EXACTLY.
SHE'S AS SAFE AS IF SHE WAS IN GOD'S POCKET.





SUPPRESSING FIRE PART 2 OF 2


KKHMP
LINE 22
THEY'LL BURY YOU WHERE YOU STAND!
NUUUH! HELP ME!
S-SOMEBODY--HELP--
THINK WE GOT A MUTANT TRACE DOWN THERE, SERGEANT.
HWA LEI MARKET
MISSION
MOVE IN, PLISKIE. BUT TAKE IT SLOW AND CAREFUL.
AND KEEP YOUR MEN ON THE LEASH THIS TIME.
LOOKS LIKE A KID. OR--TWO KIDS, MAYBE. HARD TO TELL.
MUTIE, THAT'S FOR SURE.
D-DON'T--
DON'T JUST STAND THERE.
RUN!


RUN!!!!
D-DELTA SEVEN TO CENTRAL. WE'VE GOT A-- SITUATION HERE.
THREE MEN DOWN. I NEED BACK-UP. I NEED BACK-UP, STAT!

THE CASTRO, SAN FRANCISCO. NOW.
KRESCH
TALK TO ME, MINDEE. WHAT ARE YOU GETTING?
TRANCE'S MIND-SIGNATURE IS VERY CLOSE TO YOU, ROGUE. ROUGHLY DUE EAST. BUT IT'S FUZZY, AND IT KEEPS FADING.
ALL I CAN SAY IS SHE'S ALIVE, BUT HURTING--AND VERY SCARED.
COULD BE HER BIO-ENERGY POWER IS OUT OF CONTROL, DE SAME WAY HER SPIRIT-WALKING IS.
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH HER.
STOP THE VEHICLE, ROGUE.
I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE TO CONTINUE ON FOOT FROM HERE.

GO AROUND, I GUESS?
AH STILL GOT THE STRENGTH OF ARES, SOME OF IT, ANYWAY.
AND DANGER'S GOT WHATEVER SHE GOT.
AH DON'T SEE WHY THIS SHOULD SLOW US DOWN.

OH GOD. HELP ME.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE HERE.
GIRL, YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK SPACED.
K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
I'M CALLING AN AMBULANCE.
NO! NO AMBULANCE! CALL THE X-MEN!
TELL THEM I'M IN TROUBLE.
TRANCE.
TELL THEM--
--TRANCE IS IN--

NUURHHHHH!

OH!
OH!
OH!

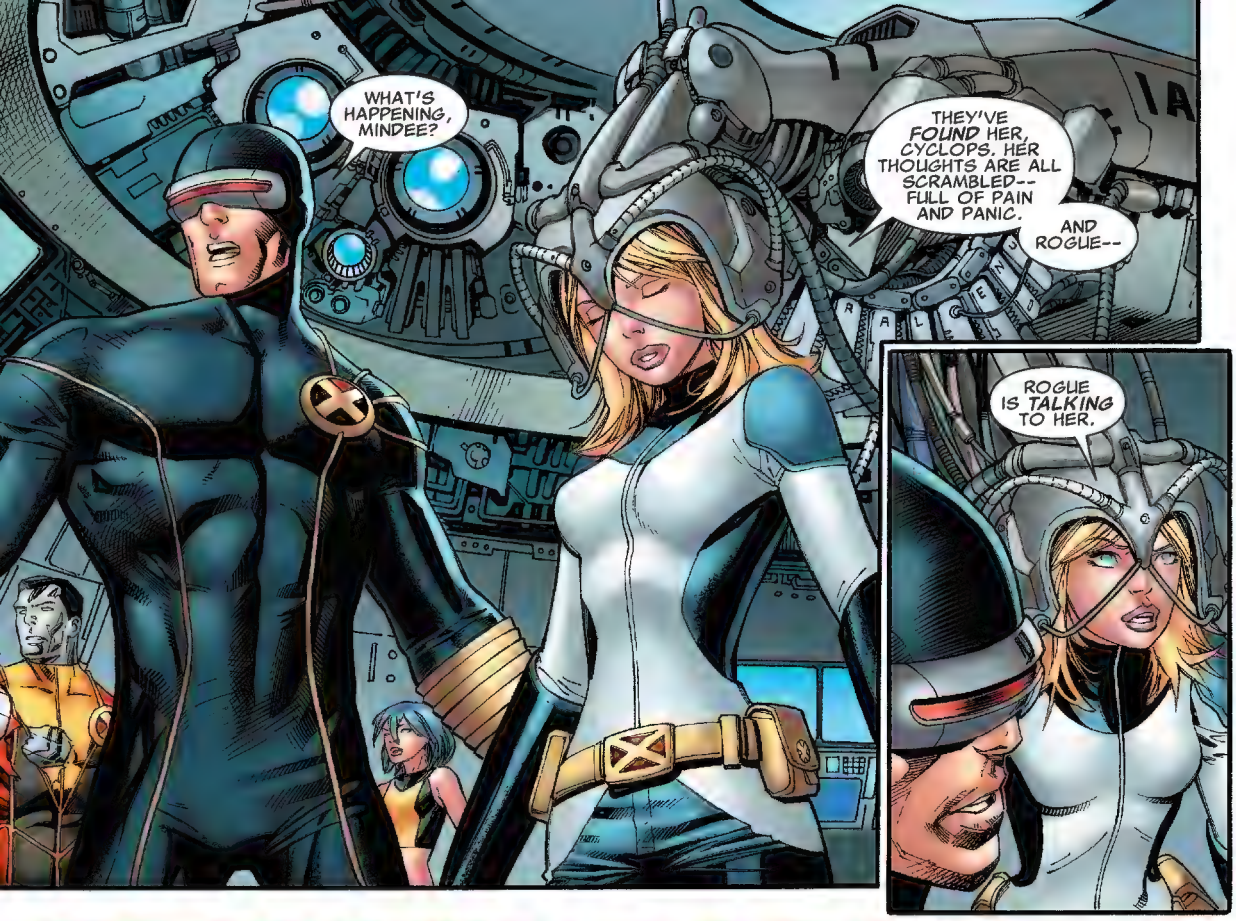
SHE SHOULD BE DIRECTLY AHEAD OF YOU.
BIEN SÛR. WE SEE HER.
TELL CYCLOPS WE'RE ON THE SCENE, MINDEE.

TELL HIM IT'S BAD.

IS SHE CAPABLE OF DIS?
NOTHING IN MY DATABASE INDICATES SO. THIS IS NEW.
AH'M GONNA GO IN.
AND DO WHAT?
ABSORB HER POWER, IF AH CAN. BRING HER DOWN FROM THIS. SHE CAN'T HURT ME, LONG AS AH GOT THIS GOD-STRENGTH IN ME.
COMPRIS. BUT WHAT ABOUT WHEN IT FADES?
HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE DONE BY THEN. DANGER, YOU'RE WITH ME.
WATCH OUR BACKS, REMY LEBEAU. WARN US IF ANY H.A.M.M.E.R. TROOPS MOVE IN.
"WE DON'T WANT SURPRISES."

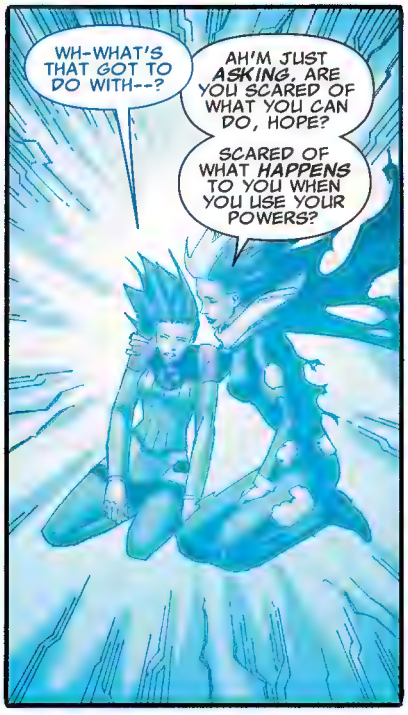
MS. MARVEL, PLEASE REPORT POSITION AND STATUS.
GOLDEN GATE HEIGHTS. JUST MOPPING UP HERE.
NO X-MEN SIGHTINGS SINCE I RAN ACROSS ROGUE. I'M HOPING SHE'S STILL OUT HERE SOMEWHERE.
GROUND UNITS HAVE REPORTED AN INJURED MUTANT AT 8TH AND MARKET.
THREE MEN DOWN. NOT CLEAR IF IT'S AN AMBUSH OR JUST AN ACCIDENT.
YEAH?
WELL MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK INTO THAT.
NOT NECESSARY.
WE'VE ALREADY DISPATCHED A TEAM.
UN-DISPATCH THEM. I'LL TAKE THIS.
COULD BE SOMETHING, COULD BE NOTHING.
BUT ONE THING I'VE LEARNED.
THE X-MEN TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN.

TRANCE, HOPE. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
R-ROGUE! I CAN'T STOP IT! I CAN'T--
IT'S KILLING MEEEE!
DOES YOUR PLAN INVOLVE DOING ANYTHING?
ARE YOU BLIND? LOOK AT HER. HER TWO SELVES ARE HALF-SEPARATED.
IF AH TOUCH HER NOW--TAKE AWAY HER POWER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRANSFORMATION--AH COULD KILL HER.
THE POWER LEVEL CONTINUES TO BUILD. IT'S ALREADY DOING STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO NEARBY BUILDINGS.
AH KNOW THAT. AH'M STAYING WITH HER.
AH STILL GOT ONE SHOT LEFT IN THE LOCKER.


WHAT'S HAPPENING, MINDEE?
THEY'VE FOUND HER, CYCLOPS. HER THOUGHTS ARE ALL SCRAMBLED-- FULL OF PAIN AND PANIC.
AND ROGUE--
ROGUE IS TALKING TO HER.

GET AWAY-- BEFORE I-- KILL YOU!
BE A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, HOPE. AH BORROWED A LITTLE SLICE OF IMMORTALITY.
BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU.

WHEN YOUR POWERS FIRST SHOWED THEMSELVES, IT WAS SCARY, RIGHT?
LIKE A WAVE GOIN' THROUGH YOU? SOMETHIN' OUTSIDE YOU, THAT YOU COULDN'T CONTROL?

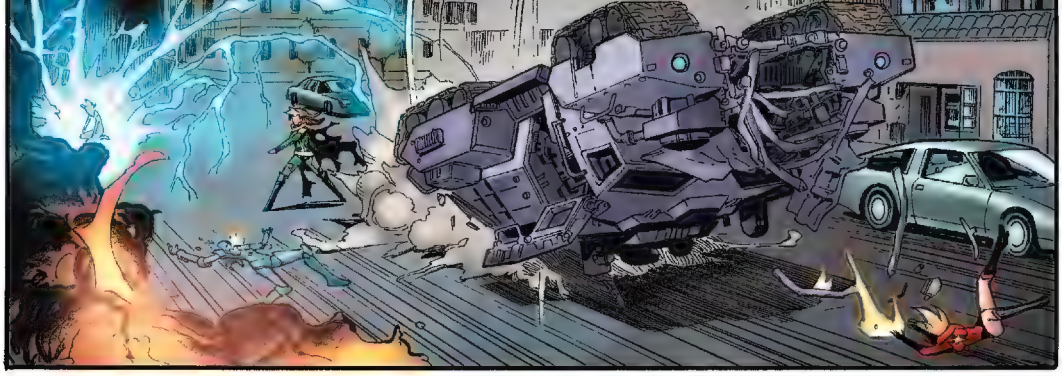

WH-WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH--?
AH'M JUST ASKING. ARE YOU SCARED OF WHAT YOU CAN DO, HOPE?
SCARED OF WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN YOU USE YOUR POWERS?

ARE YOU STUPID?
OF COURSE I AM!

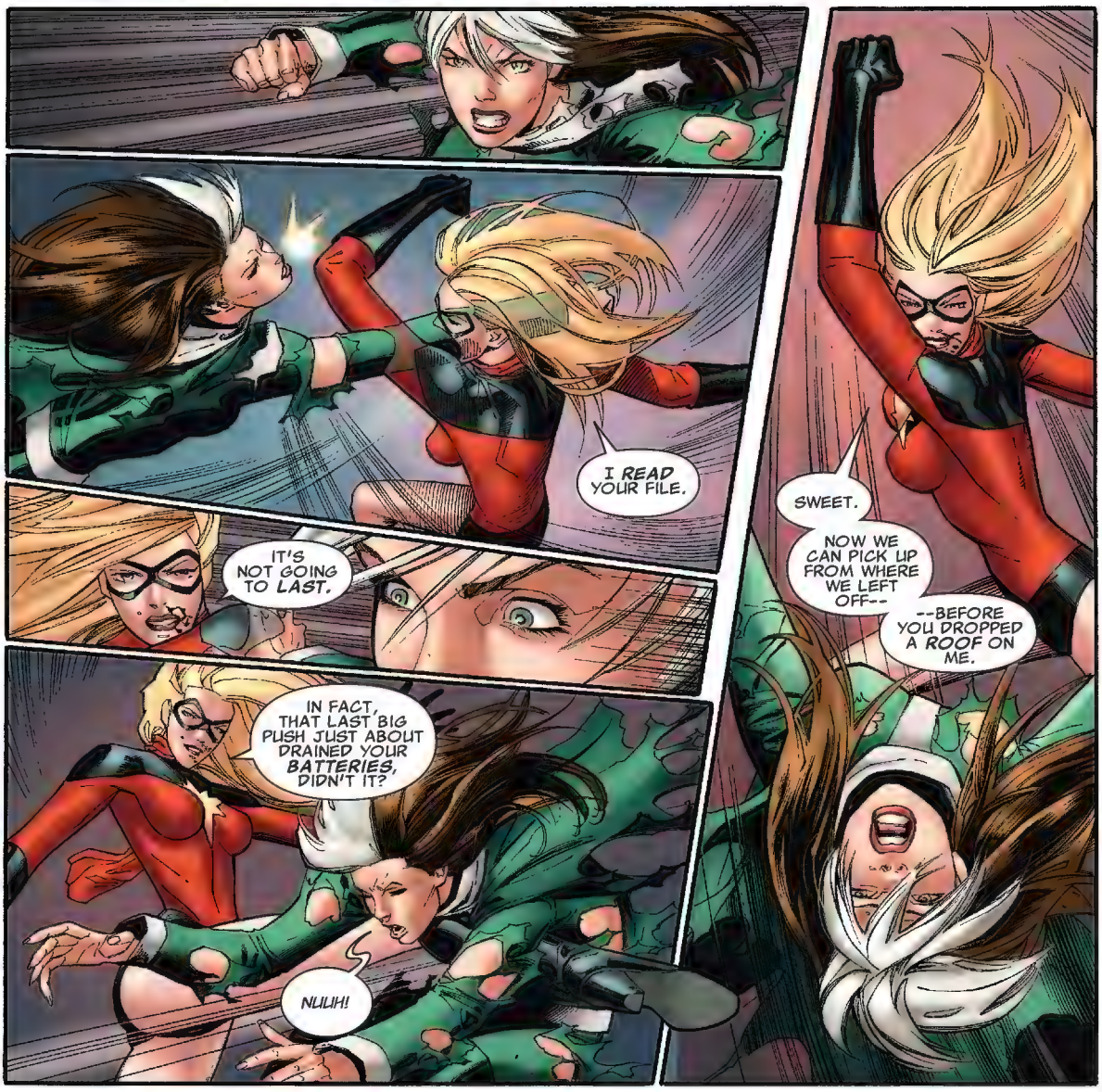
SO MAYBE THAT FEAR IS WHAT'S THROWING YOU OFF NOW.
THE--THE TASER--
HE HIT ME WITH--
AH KNOW ABOUT THAT.
MUST'VE HURT. BUT AH WONDER IF THE TASER DID ALL THIS, OR IF IT JUST PUSHED YOU OFF YOUR CENTER OF GRAVITY.
EASIEST TIME TO FALL IS WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID OF FALLIN'. YOU THROW YOURSELF OFF BALANCE.
ROGUE, I-I CAN'T--
SEE, AH THINK YOU CAN.
IN FACT, AH'M BETTING MAH LIFE ON IT.
EVEN WITHOUT COMPUTING THE PROBABILITIES, THIS SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY TO WORK.
OUI. I AGREE. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
AND I THINK THE ODDS JUST GOT LONGER.

DID YOU CONCERNED CITIZENS KNOW THERE'S A CURFEW ON?
WE'RE NEW IN TOWN.
AND I AM NOT A CITIZEN. I'M A MACHINE. YOUR LAWS DON'T APPLY TO--
TSHRAKK
BETTER.
COULDN'T HEAR MYSELF THINK.
IF YOU WERE THINKING, CHÈRE, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.
KLUDD

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE.
AH'LL JUST BE A MOMENT, HOPE.
DON'T LEAVE ME!
AH'M NOT GOIN' FAR.
THIS GIRL MIGHT DIE IF YOU DON'T LET ME HELP HER.
THAT'D BE A SHAME.
ALL AH NEED IS A FEW MINUTES TO--
SORRY.
I'M SORT OF ON THE CLOCK, HERE.
SKRAM
...



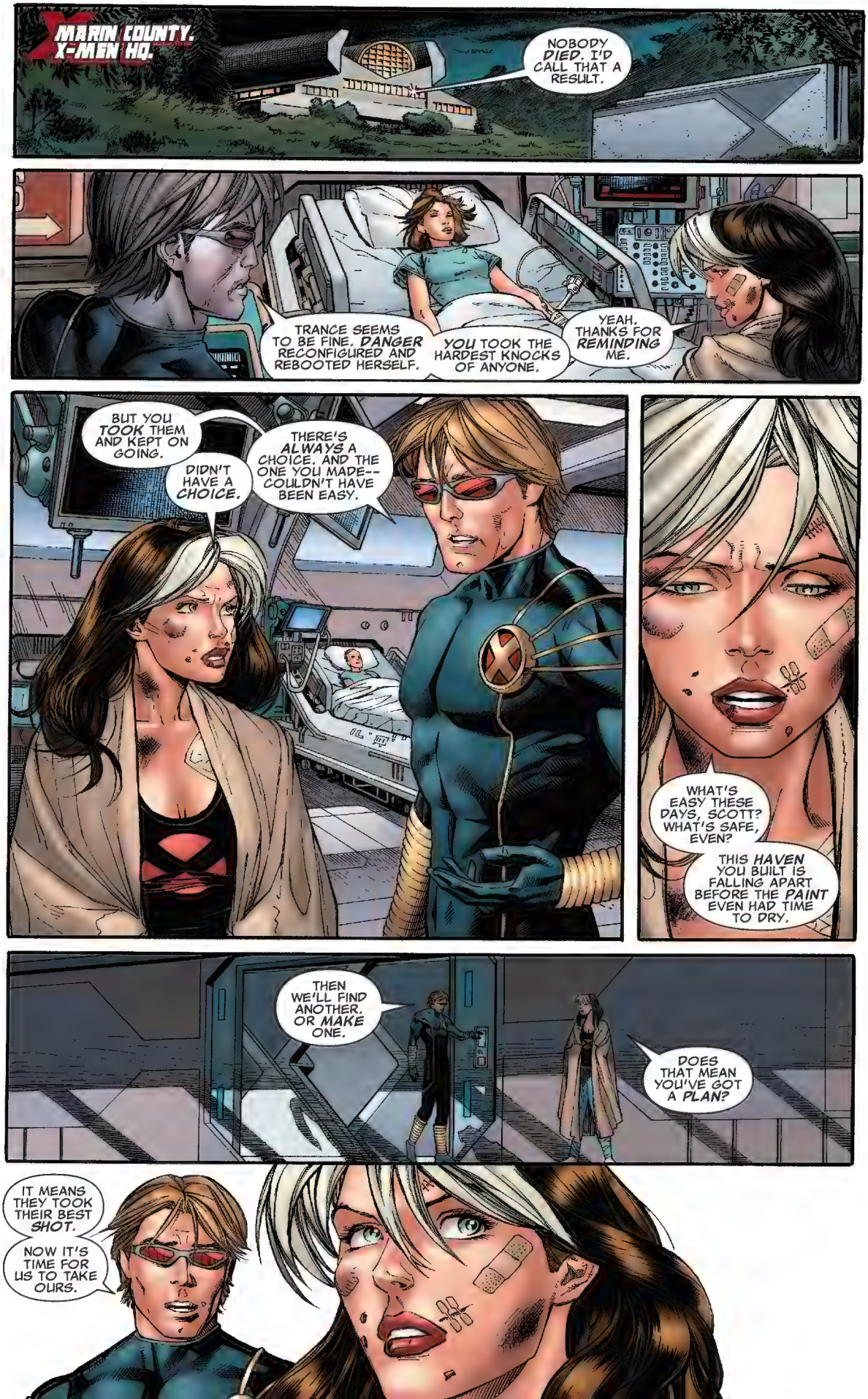
:KOF: SO YOU STOLE YOURSELF SOME MUSCLE.
BIG DEAL.


I READ YOUR FILE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO LAST.
IN FACT, THAT LAST BIG PUSH JUST ABOUT DRAINED YOUR BATTERIES, DIDN'T IT?
NUUH!
SWEET.
NOW WE CAN PICK UP FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF--
--BEFORE YOU DROPPED A ROOF ON ME.

NNNNN!
NOT AFRAID.
NOT AFRAID.
HAH!
WELL THIS HAS BEEN FUN.
AND I DIDN'T EVEN LIKE YOU UNTIL TONIGHT.
HKKK!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
UFFF!

SHOULD'VE KEPT YOUR HEAD DOWN. I WASN'T GOING TO BOTHER WITH YOU.
YOU ATTACK ONE MUTANT, YOU ATTACK US ALL.
VERY MOVING. AND THERE ARE, WHAT, A COUPLE OF DOZEN OF YOU?
ONE OF YOU OR ALL OF YOU, DOESN'T CHANGE THE ODDS ALL THAT MUCH.
YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME UNLESS I WANT YOU TO, BY THE WAY.
NO? WELL MAYBE HOPE ABBOTT CAN'T.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TRANCE CAN.
STUPID GIRL...
REMY, SHE'S SOLID.
HIT HER NOW!
UFFF!

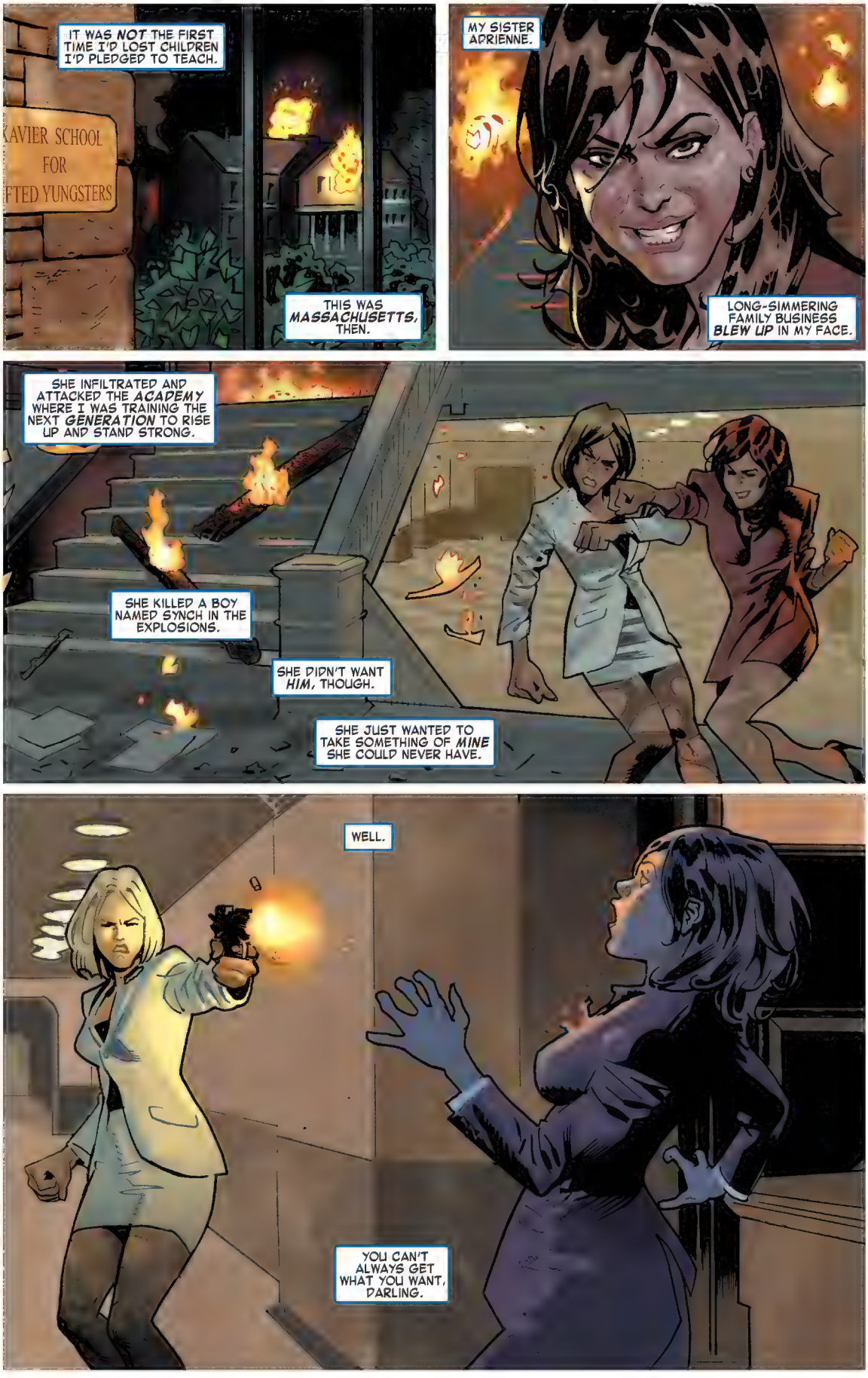
MON PLAISIR.
KOOM
MINDEE, BRING US IN!
PIXIE IS ON HER WAY. IN FACT--
--I'M ALREADY HERE.
MS. MARVEL TO COMMAND. IT WAS NOTHING.
INJURED MUTANT NO LONGER IN THE AREA.
AND GONE.
SIHAL NOVARUM CHINOTH!


MARIN COUNTY. X-MEN HQ.
NOBODY DIED. I'D CALL THAT A RESULT.
TRANCE SEEMS TO BE FINE. DANGER RECONFIGURED AND REBOOTED HERSELF.
YOU TOOK THE HARDEST KNOCKS OF ANYONE.
YEAH. THANKS FOR REMINDING ME.
BUT YOU TOOK THEM AND KEPT ON GOING.
DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.
THERE'S ALWAYS A CHOICE. AND THE ONE YOU MADE-- COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASY.
WHAT'S EASY THESE DAYS, SCOTT? WHAT'S SAFE, EVEN?
THIS HAVEN YOU BUILT IS FALLING APART BEFORE THE PAINT EVEN HAD TIME TO DRY.
THEN WE'LL FIND ANOTHER. OR MAKE ONE.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE GOT A PLAN?
IT MEANS THEY TOOK THEIR BEST SHOT.
NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE OURS.

UTOPIA

DARK REIGN
THE CABAL

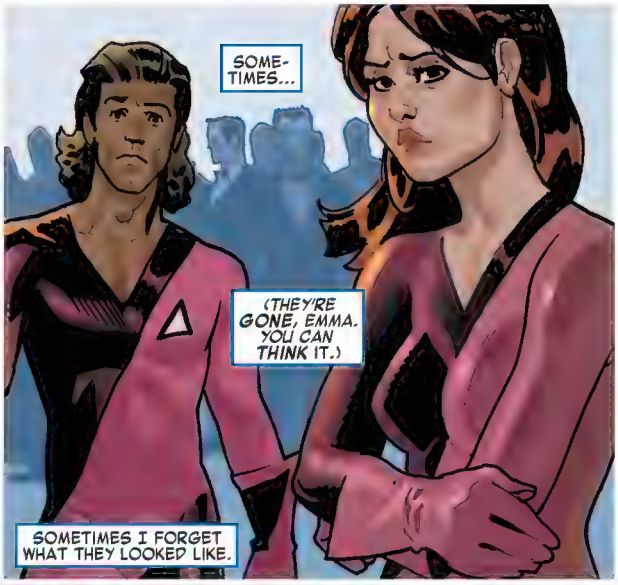
IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME I'D LOST CHILDREN I'D PLEDGED TO TEACH.
MY SISTER ADRIENNE.
THIS WAS MASSACHUSETTS, THEN.
LONG-SIMMERING FAMILY BUSINESS BLEW UP IN MY FACE.
SHE INFILTRATED AND ATTACKED THE ACADEMY WHERE I WAS TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION TO RISE UP AND STAND STRONG.
SHE KILLED A BOY NAMED SYNCH IN THE EXPLOSIONS.
SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM, THOUGH.
SHE JUST WANTED TO TAKE SOMETHING OF MINE SHE COULD NEVER HAVE.
WELL.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT, DARLING.


IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME I'D LOST CHILDREN I'D PLEDGED TO TEACH.
XAVIER SCHOOL FOR FTED YUNGSTERS
THIS WAS MASSACHUSETTS, THEN.
MY SISTER ADRIENNE.
LONG-SIMMERING FAMILY BUSINESS BLEW UP IN MY FACE.
SHE INFILTRATED AND ATTACKED THE ACADEMY WHERE I WAS TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION TO RISE UP AND STAND STRONG.
SHE KILLED A BOY NAMED SYNCH IN THE EXPLOSIONS.
SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM, THOUGH.
SHE JUST WANTED TO TAKE SOMETHING OF MINE SHE COULD NEVER HAVE.
WELL.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT, DARLING.

AND I ALREADY KNEW IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN BOMBS TO KILL ME.
IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS DECADES BEFORE *MASSACHUSETTS* BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN.

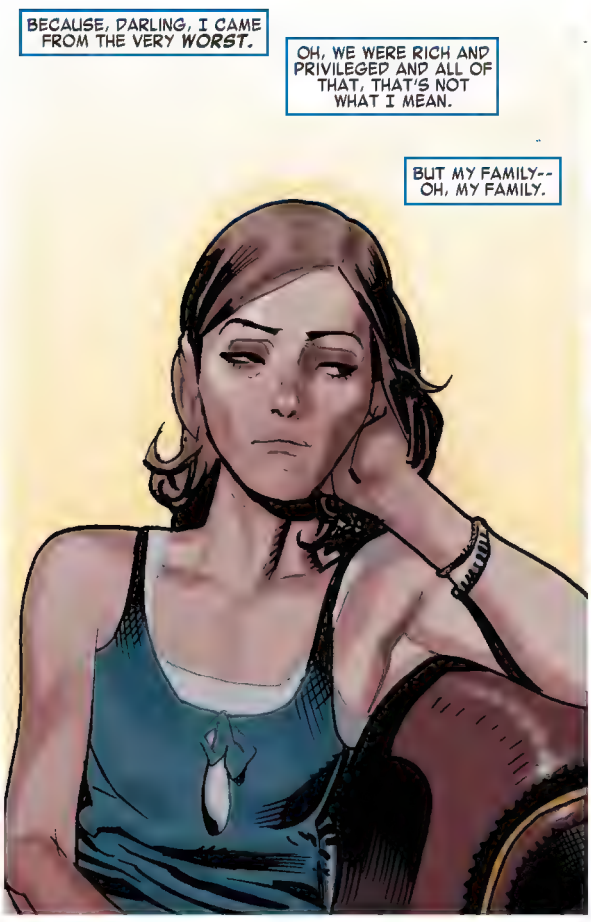
I WAS STILL INVOLVED WITH THE *HELLFIRE CLUB* AND WE WERE UNDER ATTACK.
I WAS TRYING TO BAIT THE *X-MEN* INTO HELPING ME.
GOD, HOW *IRONIC.*

I WAS ONLY INVOLVED SO...
SO I COULD TEACH THE CHILDREN. XAVIER'S SCHOOL WAS SO...UPPITY, SO *ELITE* AND CLOSED.
WHERE ELSE-- *WHO* ELSE--WAS TRYING TO TEACH YOUNG MUTANTS HOW TO USE THEIR GIFTS AND DEFEND THEMSELVES?


SOME-TIMES...
(THEY'RE *GONE*, EMMA. YOU CAN *THINK* IT.)
SOMETIMES I FORGET WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

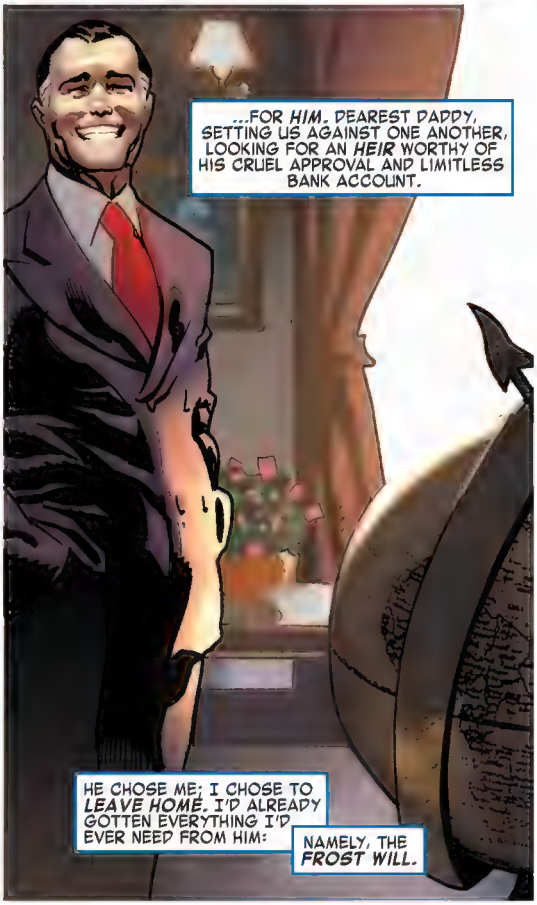
THEY WERE KILLED.
SENTINELS.
I LOOK BACK ON MY LIFE AND ALL I SEE IS THE SAME HORRIBLE PATTERN REPEATING ITSELF.
THE SAME CATASTROPHE, *ENDLESSLY RESURRECTING.*

WHICH BRINGS US TO: JEAN GREY.
THE MOST GIFTED PSYCHIC I'D EVER ENCOUNTERED--
--I'D NEVER SAY IT TO THE COW'S FACE BUT IT WAS TRUE--
--AND ONE DAY I UPSET HER SO MUCH THAT JEAN KILLED ME. THE PHOENIX KILLED ME.
THE PHOENIX WAS JEAN; JEAN WASN'T THE PHOENIX. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
AND I HAD MADE THE PHOENIX MAD. SO I WAS...
CLEANSED.
IT SHATTERED MY MIND AND LEFT ME GIBBERING AND INCONTINENT FOR... GOD, MONTHS.
I REBUILT MYSELF ONE NEURON AT A TIME.
I SURVIVED ALL THE TRAGEDY AND FIRE THAT FOLLOWED, BECAUSE I'D ALREADY BEEN INCINERATED BY THE BEST.
AND HOW DID I SURVIVE THE BEST?

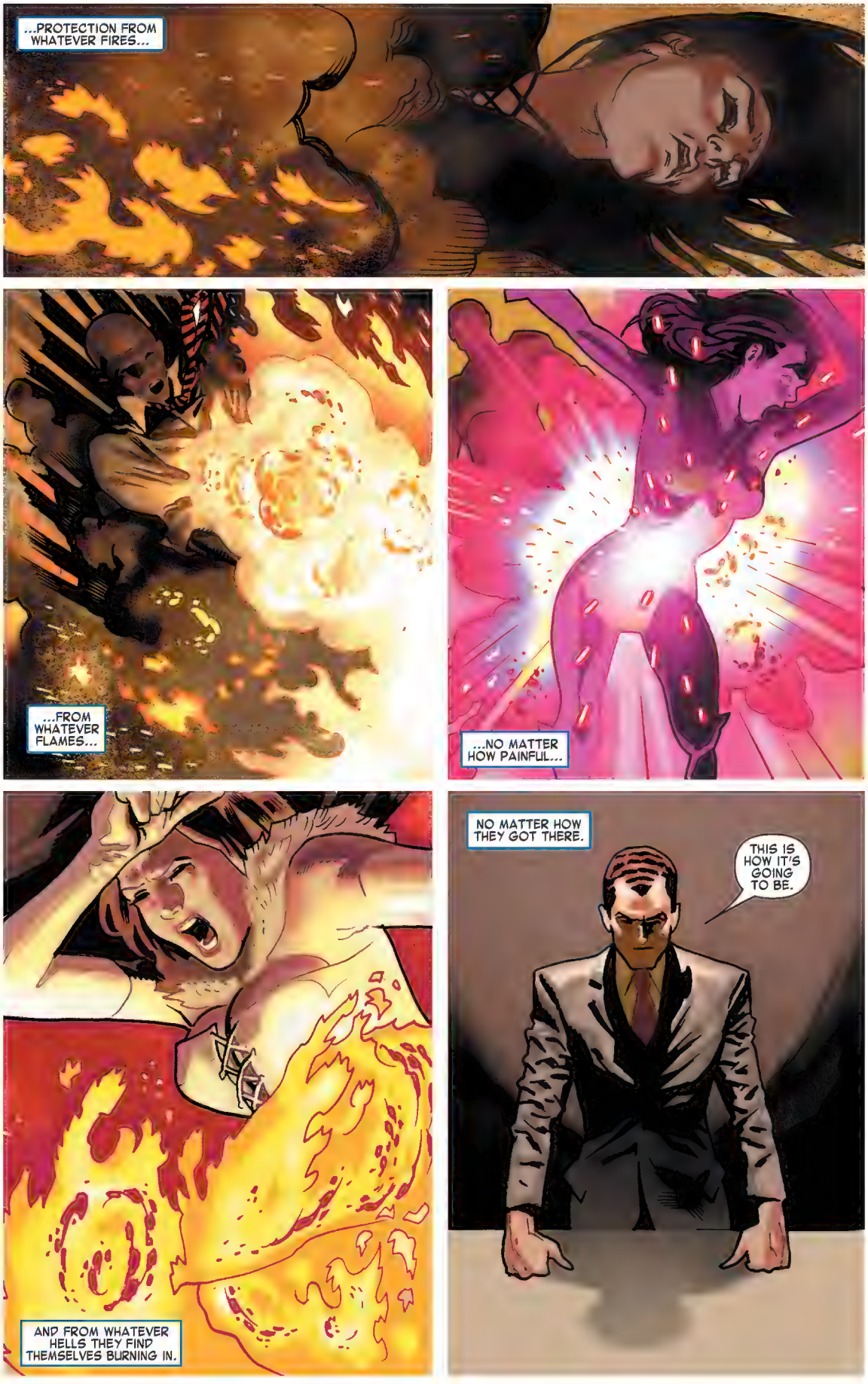

BECAUSE, DARLING, I CAME FROM THE VERY *WORST.*
OH, WE WERE RICH AND PRIVILEGED AND ALL OF THAT, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
BUT MY FAMILY-- OH, MY FAMILY.

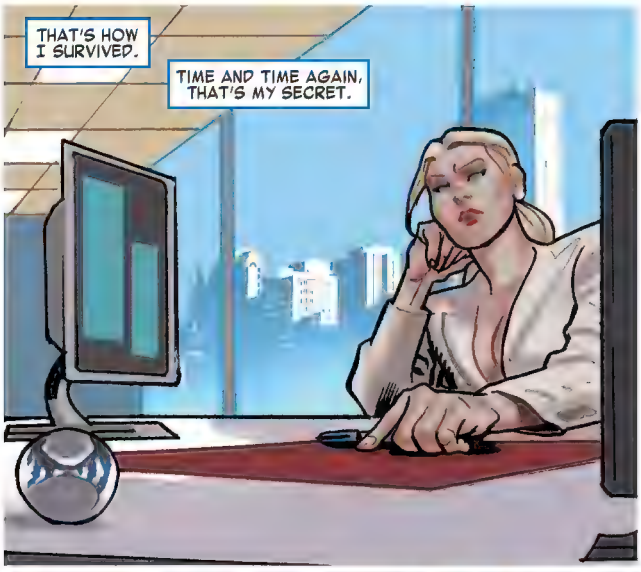
MY FAMILY WAS A BLAST FURNACE NO ONE COULD SURVIVE.
A FACTORY MADE UP OF PARTS DESIGNED TO DESTROY ONE ANOTHER.
A MIRACLE OF FAMILIAL THERMODYNAMICS. A PERPETUAL MISERY MACHINE.

MY MOTHER AND BROTHER NARCOTIZED AND COUNTER-NARCOTIZED INTO USELESSNESS.
THE FROST GIRLS, THEN, WERE LEFT TO TEAR ONE ANOTHER APART...


...FOR *HIM.* DEAREST DADDY, SETTING US AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, LOOKING FOR AN *HEIR* WORTHY OF HIS CRUEL APPROVAL AND LIMITLESS BANK ACCOUNT.
HE CHOSE ME; I CHOSE TO *LEAVE HOME.* I'D ALREADY GOTTEN EVERYTHING I'D EVER NEED FROM HIM:
NAMELY, THE *FROST WILL.*

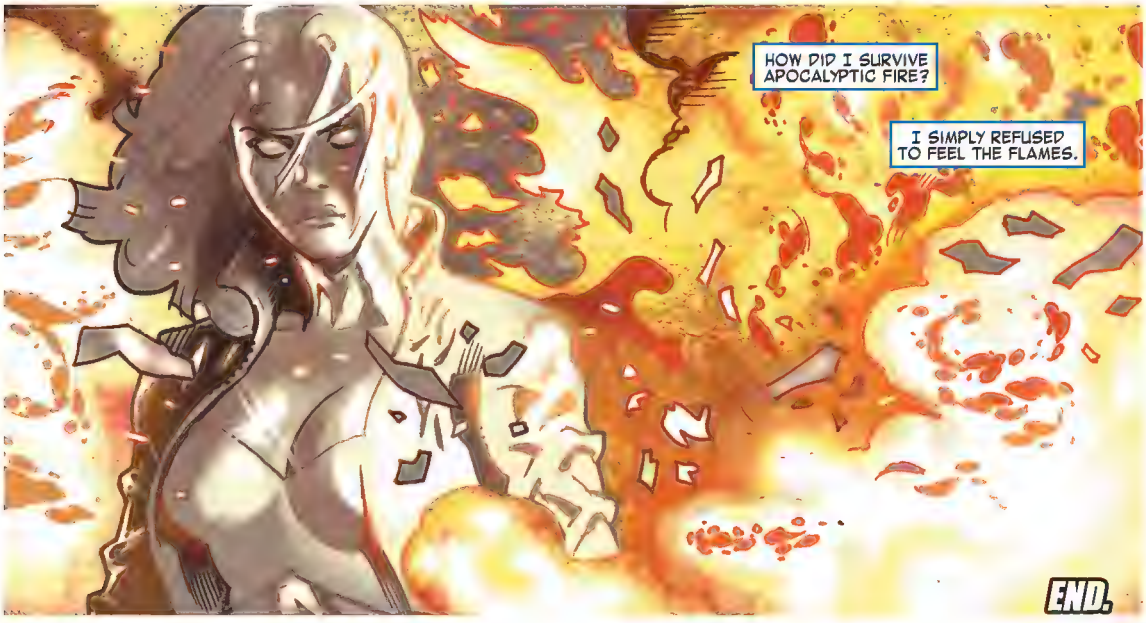
WILL TO POWER.
WILL TO THRIVE.
UNBEATABLE, UNBREAKABLE. PERFECT LIKE A SNOWFLAKE, STRONG LIKE A DIAMOND.
THE WILL TO LIVE.
THE WILL TO TEACH.
THE WILL TO TEACH CHILDREN--TO TEACH MUTANT CHILDREN, LIKE ME--HOW TO FIND...
...SOMEWHERE, WITHIN THEMSELVES...
...THE WILL TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SURVIVE.
TO SAVE AND PROTECT THOSE WHO CAN'T SAVE AND PROTECT THEMSELVES...
FROM WHATEVER APOCALYPSE IN WHICH THEY MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES.
XXX
DVD
VIDEO


...PROTECTION FROM WHATEVER FIRES...
...FROM WHATEVER FLAMES...
...NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL...
AND FROM WHATEVER HELLS THEY FIND THEMSELVES BURNING IN.
NO MATTER HOW THEY GOT THERE.
THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.


THAT'S HOW I SURVIVED.
TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THAT'S MY SECRET.

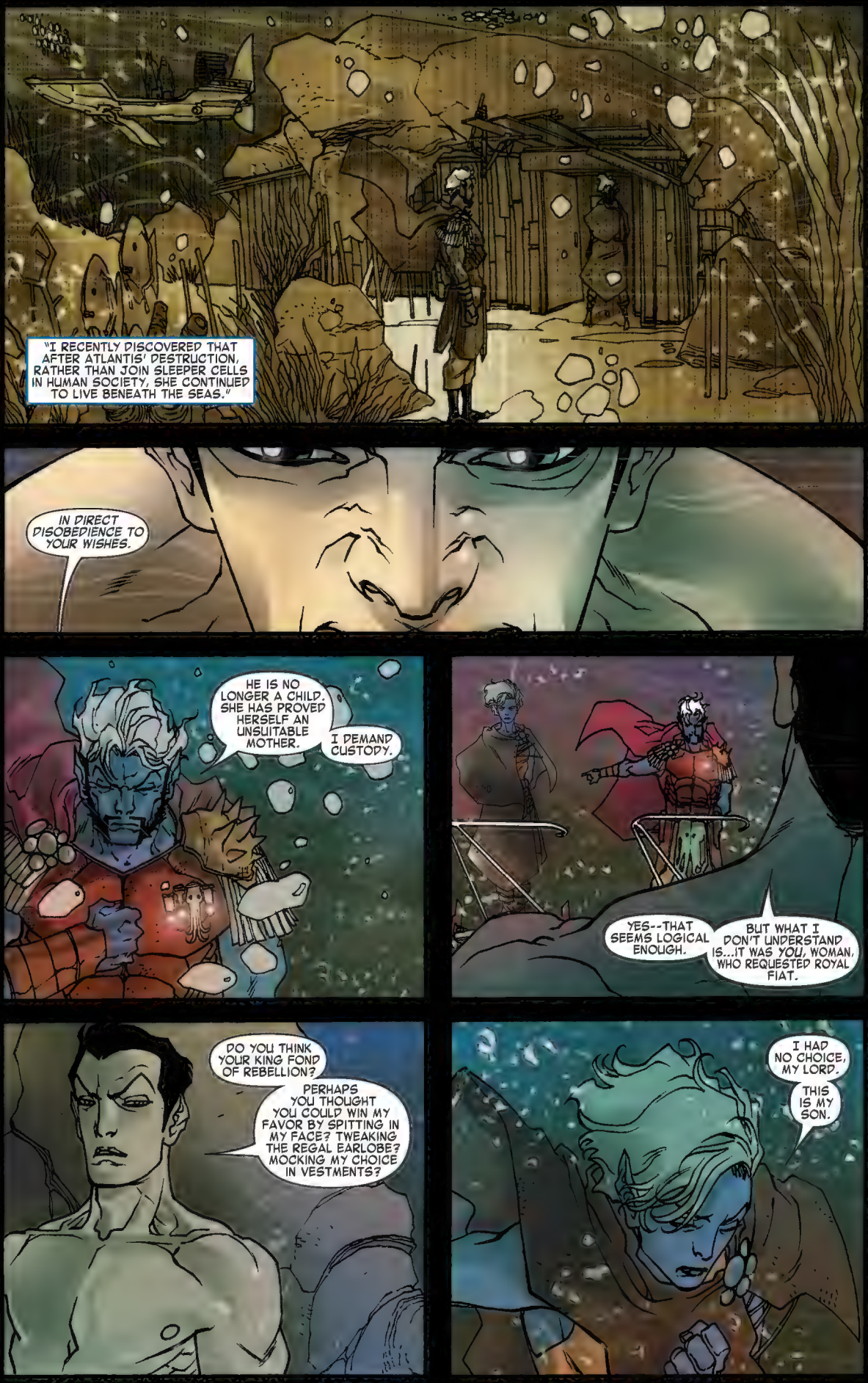
I SURVIVED BECAUSE I WILLED IT TO BE.

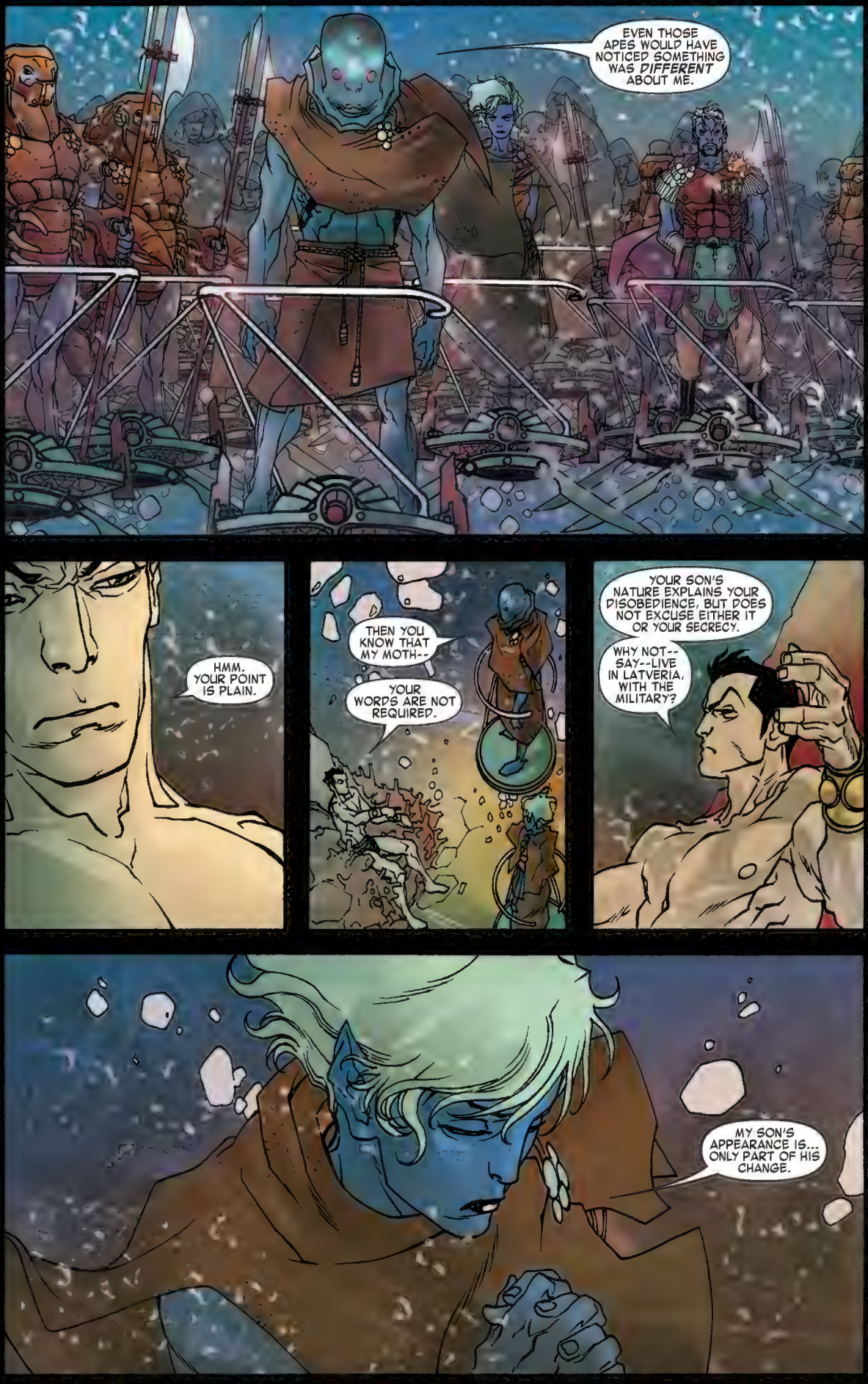
TIME AND TIME AGAIN I'VE SEEN TYRANTS CRUSH THE POWERLESS.
I'VE *BEEN* CRUSHED BY THEM MYSELF.


HOW DID I SURVIVE APOCALYPTIC FIRE?
I SIMPLY REFUSED TO FEEL THE FLAMES.
END.

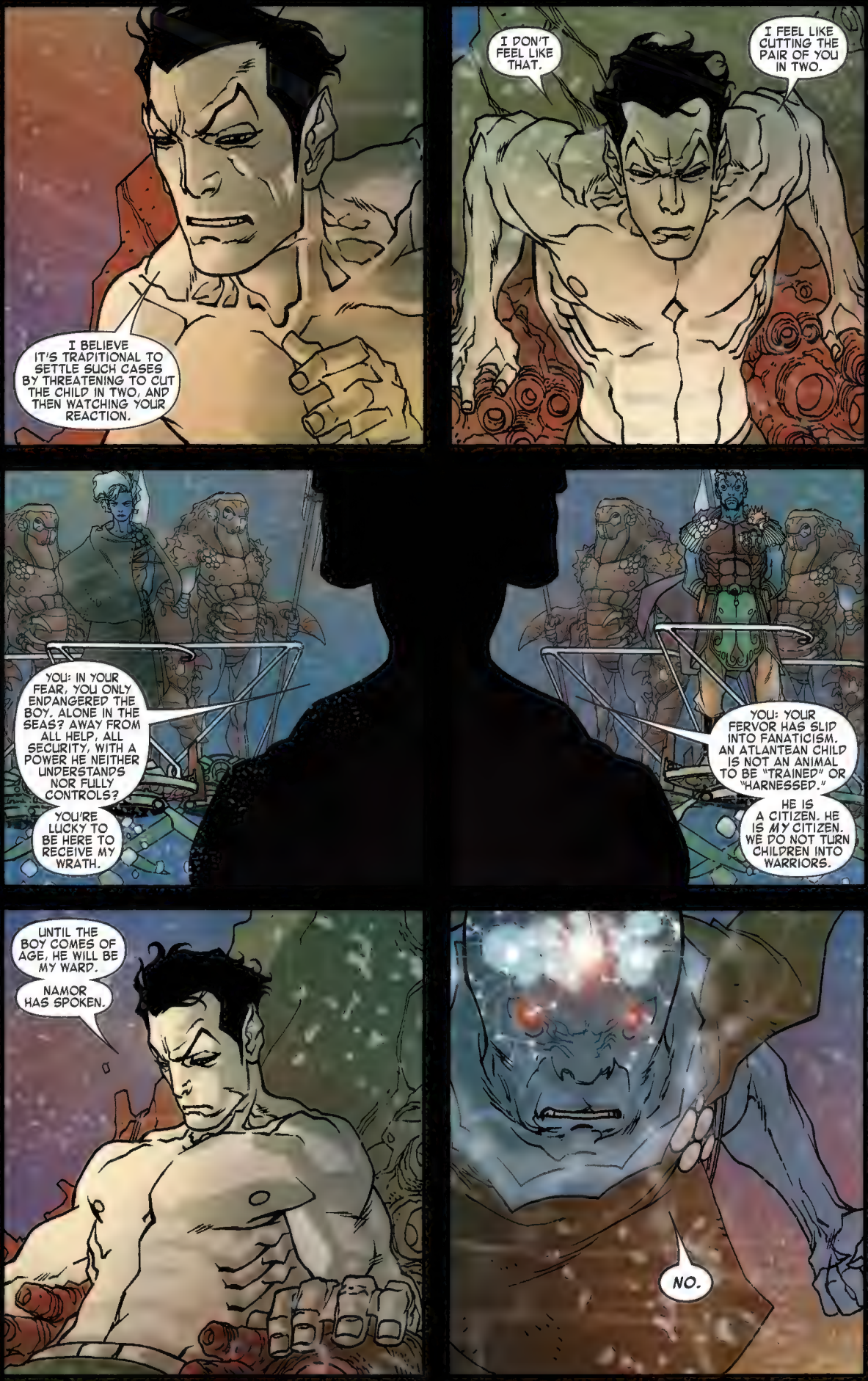
The Judgment of Namor
THIS COURT NOW... RECLINES.
I WARN YOU: EVEN THIS STRAINS MY PATIENCE.
EXPLAIN WHY THIS LEGAL KNOT REQUIRES YOUR MONARCH TO UNTANGLE IT.
IT'S BECAUS--
NO, YOU CAN WAIT. HIM FIRST.

MY LORD: IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF CUSTODY BETWEEN PROCTIPAE AND I.
I'M ASHAMED THIS HAS DISTURBED YOU.
"OUR MATRIMONY DISSOLVED IN HELLISH ACRIMONY SOME SIX YEARS PAST.
"IN THE COURT'S WISDOM, SHE WAS AWARDED CUSTODY OF OUR SON, CROSTA."
THIS I REGRETFULLY ACCEPTED. WHILE I TRIED TO EXPLAIN HER IMMORAL NATURE, THE COURT THOUGHT AN ATLANTEAN MILITARY CAMP WOULD NOT SUIT SUCH A YOUNG CHILD.
KILLERS.
HAD I KNOWN THE TRUE EXTENT OF HER IRRESPONSIBILITY, I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT ALL THE HARDER!
MELODRAMATIC RHETORIC IS A ROYAL PREROGATIVE.
HURRY ALONG.


"I RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT AFTER ATLANTIS' DESTRUCTION, RATHER THAN JOIN SLEEPER CELLS IN HUMAN SOCIETY, SHE CONTINUED TO LIVE BENEATH THE SEAS."
IN DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE TO YOUR WISHES.
HE IS NO LONGER A CHILD. SHE HAS PROVED HERSELF AN UNSUITABLE MOTHER.
I DEMAND CUSTODY.
YES--THAT SEEMS LOGICAL ENOUGH.
BUT WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS...IT WAS YOU, WOMAN, WHO REQUESTED ROYAL FIAT.
DO YOU THINK YOUR KING FOND OF REBELLION?
PERHAPS YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD WIN MY FAVOR BY SPITTING IN MY FACE? TWEAKING THE REGAL EARLOBE? MOCKING MY CHOICE IN VESTMENTS?
I HAD NO CHOICE, MY LORD.
THIS IS MY SON.


EVEN THOSE APES WOULD HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING WAS *DIFFERENT* ABOUT ME.
HMM. YOUR POINT IS PLAIN.
THEN YOU KNOW THAT MY MOTH--
YOUR WORDS ARE NOT REQUIRED.
YOUR SON'S NATURE EXPLAINS YOUR DISOBEDIENCE, BUT DOES NOT EXCUSE EITHER IT OR YOUR SECRECY.
WHY NOT--SAY--LIVE IN LATVERIA, WITH THE MILITARY?
MY SON'S APPEARANCE IS... ONLY PART OF HIS CHANGE.

"HE AWOKE TO FIND HIMSELF...LIKE HE IS.
"I SCREAMED. I WISH I HADN'T, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT AND... I WISH I HADN'T.
"HE RAN TO A MIRROR. AND THEN...
"WHEN DISTRESSED, HE CREATES DIRECTED SHOCKWAVES.
"THEY'RE... EXPLOSIVE."
I CAN CONTROL IT.
HE CAN CONTROL IT...MOSTLY. SO WE MOVED AWAY. WHEN YOU ORDERED EVERYONE TO HIDE AMONGST THE HUMANS...WE STAYED WHERE WE WERE.
BECAUSE IF OPISTHO DISCOVERED WHAT CROSTA COULD DO, HE AND THE MILITARY WOULD HAVE TRIED TO TURN HIM INTO A KILLING MACHINE. AND I WAS RIGHT.
AND IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT SUCH POWER SHOULD BE TEMPERED FOR ATLANTIS' GREATER SERVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SHE THINKS *ALL* WARRIORS KILLING MACHINES! CROSTA NEEDS TO BE *TRAINED*. THAT POWER NEEDS TO BE HARNESSED! *LEASHED!*
TRAINED INTO A KILLER LIKE *YOU*. A *MONSTER* LIKE YOU. HE IS A *BOY*.
HE'S LOST SO MUCH. YOU CAN'T TAKE THE REST AWAY FROM HIM.


I BELIEVE IT'S TRADITIONAL TO SETTLE SUCH CASES BY THREATENING TO CUT THE CHILD IN TWO, AND THEN WATCHING YOUR REACTION.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE THAT.
I FEEL LIKE CUTTING THE PAIR OF YOU IN TWO.
YOU: IN YOUR FEAR, YOU ONLY ENDANGERED THE BOY. ALONE IN THE SEAS? AWAY FROM ALL HELP, ALL SECURITY, WITH A POWER HE NEITHER UNDERSTANDS NOR FULLY CONTROLS?
YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE HERE TO RECEIVE MY WRATH.
YOU: YOUR FERVOR HAS SLIP INTO FANATICISM. AN ATLANTEAN CHILD IS NOT AN ANIMAL TO BE "TRAINED" OR "HARNESSED."
HE IS A CITIZEN. HE IS MY CITIZEN. WE DO NOT TURN CHILDREN INTO WARRIORS.
UNTIL THE BOY COMES OF AGE, HE WILL BE MY WARD.
NAMOR HAS SPOKEN.
NO.

NAMOR DOES NOT SPEAK TWICE.
NO!
POWERFUL... YET A CHILD.
YOU PROVE BOTH YOUR PARENTS CORRECT.
AAAAH!

THOUGH WHILE I UNDERSTAND RAGE, THEY HAVE FAILED TO TEACH YOU PROPER RESPECT.
YOU ARE GOING TO A SCHOOL IN SAN FRANCISCO.
THERE, YOU WILL BE TAUGHT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MUTANT AND HOW TO LIVE WITH YOUR GIFTS. YOU WILL GROW AND BECOME THE MAN YOU SHOULD BE.
BUT I WANT MY...
CEASE. YOUR WANTS MATTER NOT.
AS MY SUBJECT, OBEDIENCE IS YOUR DUTY TO ME.
AS YOUR KING, MY DUTY TO YOU IS TO GIVE YOU WHAT'S BEST.
TO GIVE YOU WHAT'S BEST, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
AND IN THAT MATTER, THIS COURT NEVER RESTS.
END

UTOPIA

DARK X-MEN
THE BEGINNING #1

ALCATRAZ ISLAND, WEST COAST HEADQUARTERS, H.A.M.M.E.R.
HE DID WHAT?!
HEADBUTTED SUNSPOT, SIR. ON TV.
WELL... THAT'S... OKAY, ACTUALLY.
SUNSPOT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A *KID*. HE LOOKS LIKE A...SCARY BLACK-HOLE THING.
THAT'S JUST... KIND OF... LACKING CLASS, BY HIS STANDARDS.
AND HAVE THE BUGS PICKED ANYTHING UP? ANYTHING HE'S SAID?
ABOUT THE ATLANTEAN TERRORISTS. ABOUT REYNOLDS *KILLING* THE ATLANTEAN TERRORISTS?
NO, SIR--
HE HAS JUST SEEMED... CALM.
REALLY... REALLY... *CALM*.

"NAMOR.
"I WAS SURE WE'D BE DONE.
"WHY IS HE STILL HERE?
"WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?"
SO, ABOUT THE ATLANTEANS--
DARK X-MEN
NAMOR/ NORMAN

THE FACT THAT I EVEN ALLOW YOU TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO ME IS A GIFT I BESTOW UPON YOU.
YOU DO *NOT* ORDER ME.
YOU *BEG* FOR MY APPRECIATION AND THEN WAIT TO SEE IF I CHOOSE TO BESTOW IT UPON YOU.
ATLANTIS IS NO MORE BECAUSE THE SURFACE WORLD DESTROYED IT!
AND THE FACT THAT I HAVEN'T DROPPED A TIDAL WAVE ON THE UNITED STATES IN RETALIATION IS, IN MY OPINION, AN ACT OF UNIMAGINABLE PATIENCE AND CHARACTER!
SO NO, I WILL *NOT* HELP YOU, AND I WILL *NOT* BE YOUR DANCING MONKEY!
AND IF YOU AND I NEED TO DO BATTLE ABOUT THIS, LET IT BE NOW!
WHAT *ABOUT* THE ATLANTEANS?

WELL, THE LAST TIME WE TALKED ABOUT THAT SITUATION, YOU REFUSED TO DENOUNCE THEM.
INDEED, YOU CAME PERILOUSLY CLOSE TO AGREEING WITH THEM--
SO I HAD THEM PUT DOWN.
I HAD THEM EXTERMINATED.
AND YOUR ONLY REACTION IS...
TO PITCH IN AND HELP ME OUT WITH THIS WHOLE MUTANT THING?
I MEAN, I HALF-EXPECTED YOU TO RIDE SOME GIANT SEA-MONSTER RIGHT UP TO MY BUILDING.
FORCE US TO SEE WHO'S STRONGER, YOU OR THE SENTRY.
BUT YOU DIDN'T. AT FIRST, YOU DID NOTHING.
THEN YOU SHOWED UP HERE AT THE LOVELY MS. FROST'S REQUEST.
SO, AS I'M SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE, IT MADE ME CURIOUS.
CURIOUS AS TO WHY YOU DID THAT.

I MEAN, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE A MUTANT. SOMEONE INFORMED ME OF THAT FACT.
BUT HOW *WOULD* I KNOW? YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY SHOUTED IT OFF ROOFTOPS, IF YOU HAVE THOSE ON, YOU KNOW, UNDERWATER BUILDINGS.
YOU DIDN'T JOIN THE X-MEN WHEN XAVIER OR SUMMERS WERE RUNNING IT.
IS IT FROST'S FEMININE WILES GETTING TO YOU?
OR, DARE I SAY IT, IS OUR PROUD ATLANTEAN KING HAVING AN IDENTITY CRISIS?
I MEAN, WHY ELSE WOULD YOU COME BACK TO ME AFTER WHAT I DID?
DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE? SOMEONE TO GIVE YOU ORDERS?

YOU DO NOT GIVE ME--
"ORDERS"!
YOUR HIGHNESS--
WITH RESPECT--
THIS IS INSANE.
YOU JOINED MY ORGANIZATION.
MY X-MEN.
I WAS ASKED TO TAKE YOU ON.
YOU VOLUNTEERED.
--HHEHHM--
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TAKE ORDERS, YOU CAN ALWAYS JUST LEAVE--
ENOUGH!
THIS...THIS CONVERSATION IS--

RIGHT. NOW I SEE. YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW *WHY* YOU'RE HERE, DO YOU?
OR YOU WOULDN'T FLY OFF THE HANDLE LIKE THAT.
I DO UNDERSTAND, YOU KNOW.
ABOUT BEING TWO THINGS.
TWO THINGS?
WHICH--?
YES, EXACTLY, *WHICH* TWO THINGS? INDEED!
A "SUPER VILLAIN" *AND* A "SUPER HERO."
YOU'VE MADE THE SAME JOURNEY I HAVE.
FROM THREATENING THE WORLD, OR AT LEAST A PART OF IT, TO SAVING IT.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

I THINK RIGHT NOW YOU'RE LOOKING AT YOUR LIFE AND QUESTIONING WHETHER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING--
FOR YEARS--
--IS WORKING.
I'VE BEEN *THERE*, TOO, YOUR HIGHNESS.
ALL THIS TIME, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YOURSELF AS A *MUTANT*.
BUT RATHER, AS AN *ATLANTEAN*.
NOW YOU'RE THINKING OF MAKING A CHANGE. NOT FIGHTING A LOST CAUSE ANYMORE.
I THINK COMING TO *US* IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES IS ADMIRABLE. I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD FEEL VULNERABLE ABOUT THAT.

YOU COULD HAVE A HOME HERE.
IN THE BOSOM OF MS. FROST.
METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING, I MEAN.
ALTHOUGH I THINK YOU'D BE GREAT TOGETHER.
I'M GLAD WE'VE BROUGHT THIS TO THE SURFACE. BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO CONSCIOUSLY SIGN UP FOR THIS.
I'M OFFERING YOU YOUR CHANGE: SOMETHING YOU CAN BE: A MUTANT; AN X-MAN.
A NEW PEOPLE YOU CAN DEFEND AND REPRESENT.
A PEOPLE, THIS TIME, SOME OF WHOM THE SURFACE DWELLERS HAVE AT LEAST MET AND LIKED.
SO NOW WE'RE CLEAR. ALL THIS IS WHY YOU'RE GOING TO STAY.
AND ALLOW ME TO KEEP ON GIVING YOU ORDERS.
RIGHT?

YOU HAVE SAID TOO MUCH.
BUT I'VE WORKED YOU OUT.
HAVEN'T I?
SO... THE NEXT TIME I SEND YOU ON A MISSION--
THEN I WILL...GIVE YOUR... REQUESTS--
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

MOVE SUBJECT: NAMOR INTO CATEGORY GREEN FOR REGULAR ASSIGNMENT.
RECORDING
I BELIEVE I HAVE THE MEASURE OF HIM NOW.
IT'S NICE WHEN SOMEONE WHO WAS A THREAT VOLUNTEERS TO BE AN ALLY.
A FLUNKY!
"AND IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO HAVE A PRINCE ON THE TEAM."

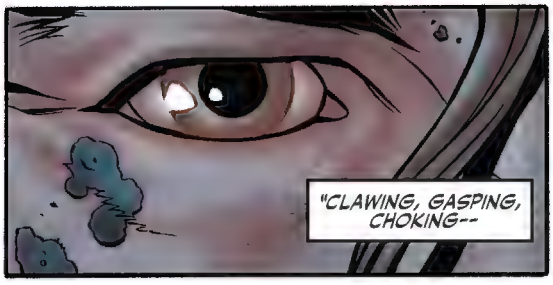
"HAVE YOU EVER COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?

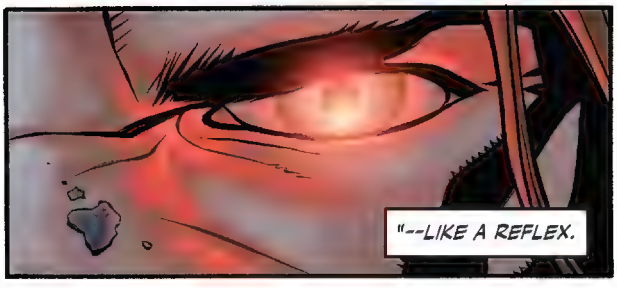
"DOES THAT SOUND LIKE A STUPID QUESTION? BECAUSE, PEOPLE LIKE US-- I HEAR IT HAPPENS PRETTY OFTEN.

"I'VE BEEN KILLED. BUT ALSO BURIED.
"A FEW TIMES.

"WHEN YOU COME TO, THERE'S A FEW MOMENTS THAT ARE PURE IMPULSE.

"YOU ARE JUST A THING.

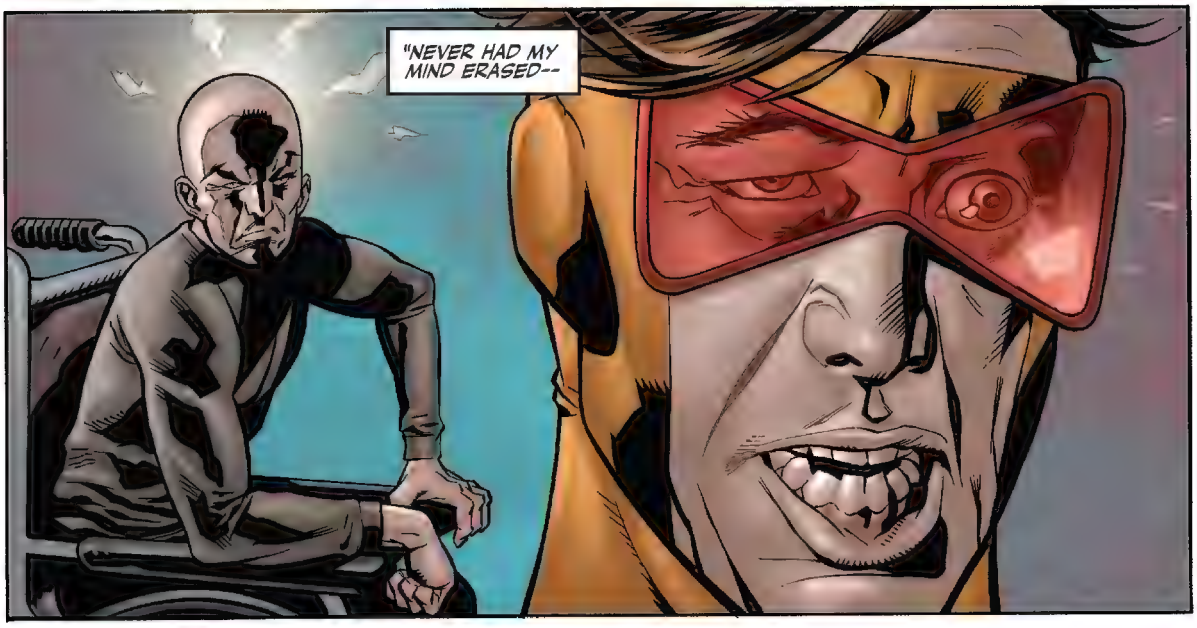

"CLAWING, GASPING, CHOKING--

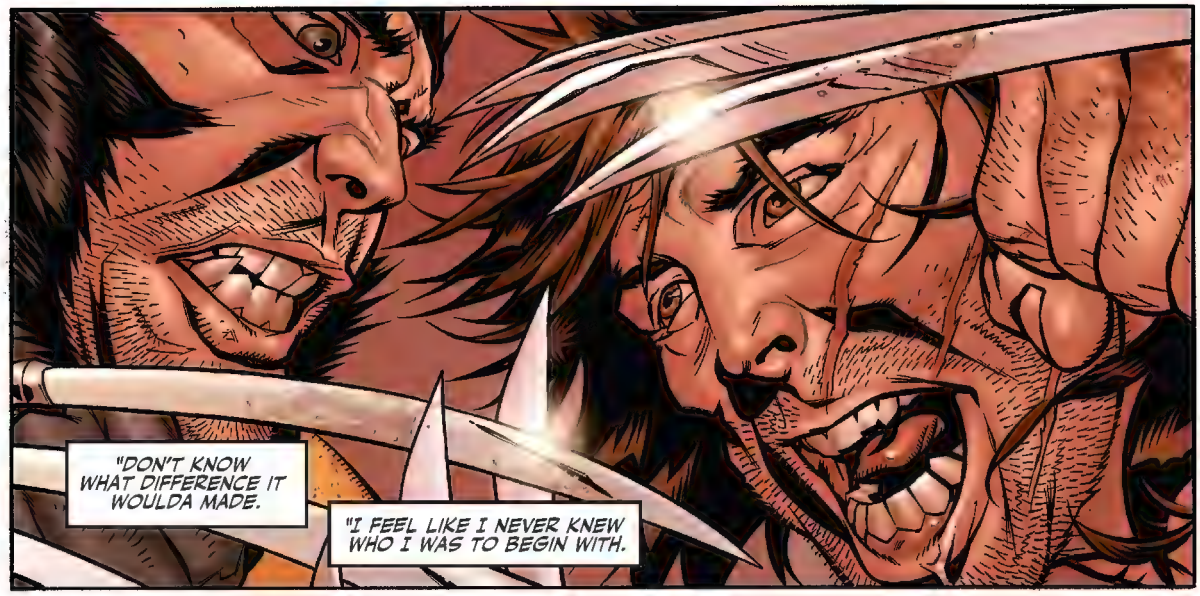

"--LIKE A REFLEX.

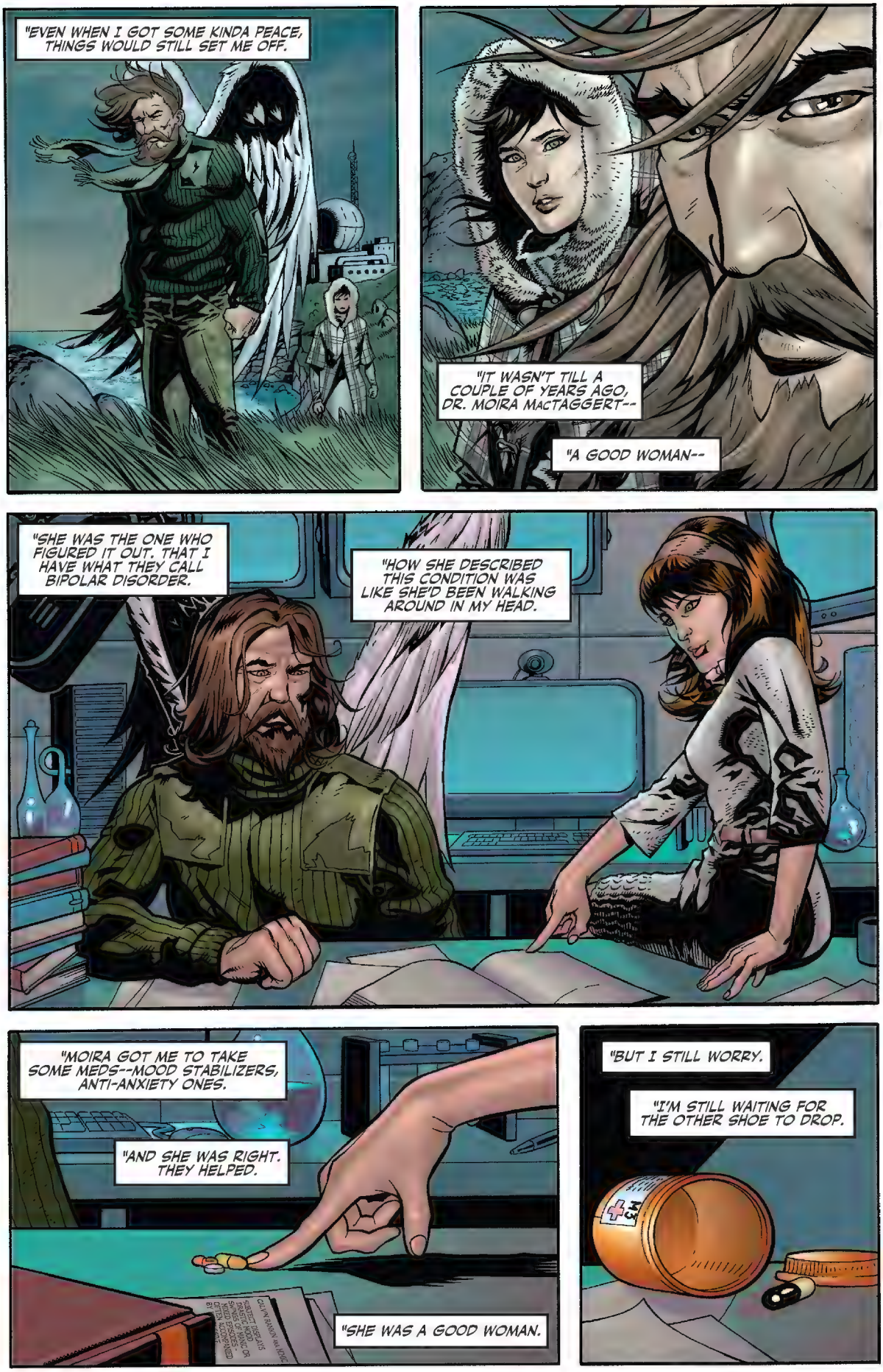
DARK X-MEN
MIMIC
"IN THAT MOMENT, YOU ACTUALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.
"THERE'S NO QUESTIONING WHAT YOU DO. YOU JUST DO IT.
"BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T--YOU'LL SWALLOW DIRT AND NEVER MOVE AGAIN.

"LIKE I SAID,
"I BEEN BURIED.
"BUT THAT FEELING?
"I FEEL THAT WAY ALL THE TIME.

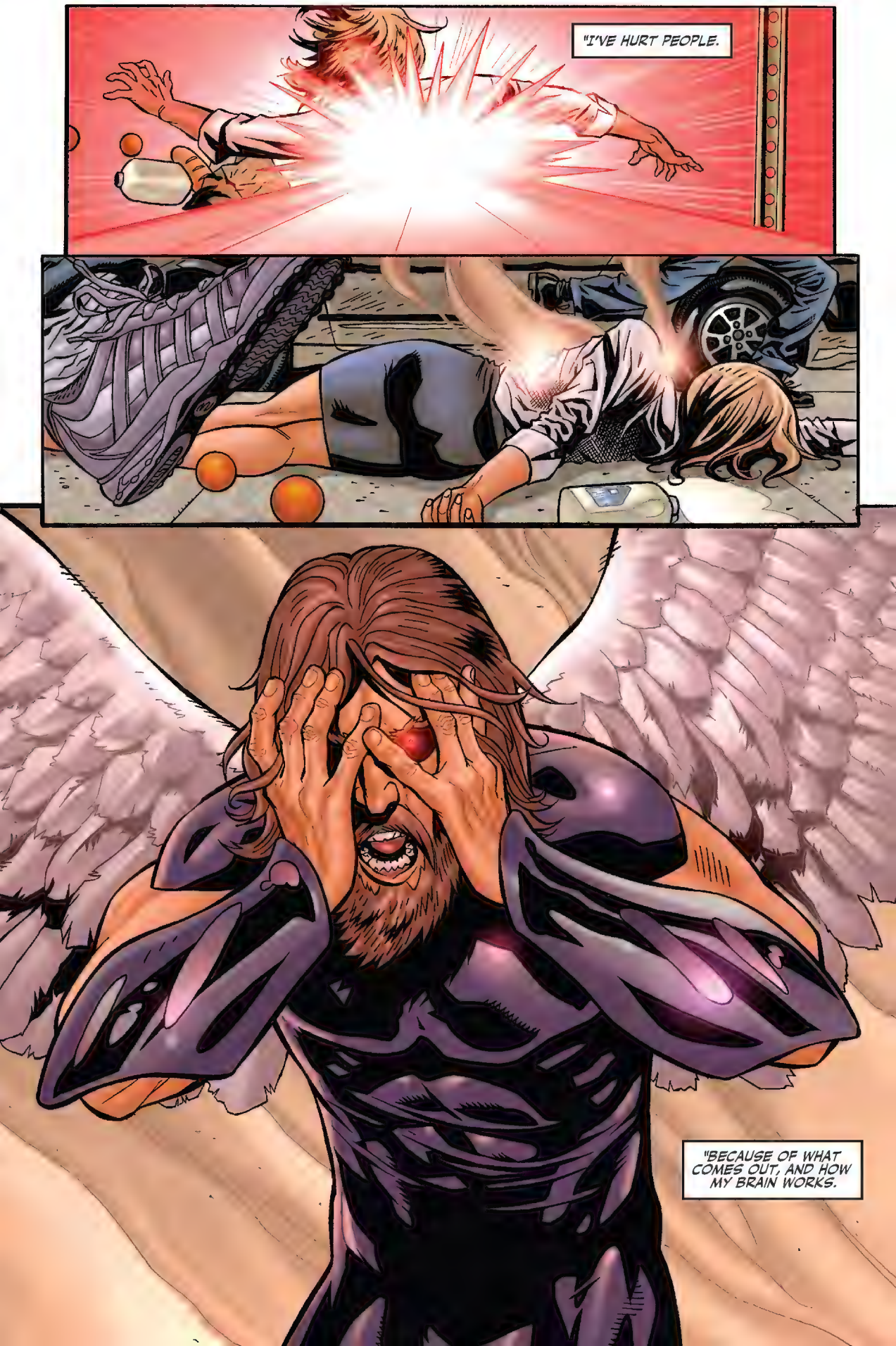
"I THINK, YOU KNOW, EVEN IF I HADN'T BEEN KILLED--


"NEVER HAD MY MIND ERASED--


"DON'T KNOW WHAT DIFFERENCE IT WOULDA MADE.
"I FEEL LIKE I NEVER KNEW WHO I WAS TO BEGIN WITH.


"EVEN WHEN I GOT SOME KINDA PEACE, THINGS WOULD STILL SET ME OFF.
"IT WASN'T TILL A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, DR. MOIRA MACTAGGERT--
"A GOOD WOMAN--
"SHE WAS THE ONE WHO FIGURED IT OUT. THAT I HAVE WHAT THEY CALL BIPOLAR DISORDER.
"HOW SHE DESCRIBED THIS CONDITION WAS LIKE SHE'D BEEN WALKING AROUND IN MY HEAD.
"MOIRA GOT ME TO TAKE SOME MEDS--MOOD STABILIZERS, ANTI-ANXIETY ONES.
"AND SHE WAS RIGHT. THEY HELPED.
"SHE WAS A GOOD WOMAN.
"BUT I STILL WORRY.
"I'M STILL WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP.

"I'M GUESSING YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN DO?
"ALL THESE PEOPLE AROUND NOW, SHOOT LASERS FROM THEIR FACE OR WHATEVER? I GET NEAR THEM, AND I CAN DO IT ALL TOO.
"THESE PEOPLE-- THEY'RE PRACTICALLY GODS.
"AND WHATEVER THEY SPENT THEIR WHOLE LIVES LEARNING TO MANAGE, IT JUST COMES OUT OF ME.


"I'VE HURT PEOPLE.
"BECAUSE OF WHAT COMES OUT, AND HOW MY BRAIN WORKS.

"I'VE TRIED TO GET AWAY.
"BUT THE WORLD'S TOO SMALL.
"AND ALL THESE THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN DO... THEY JUST SLEEP INSIDE ME.
"EVEN IF I DON'T WANT IT TO--
"--SOMETIMES IT JUST COMES OUT.

"SOME OF THE SCARIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD?

"WOLVERINE, THAT... THE HULK? CHARLES XAVIER?

"I GOT THEM ALL TWISTED UP IN ME.

"AND I CAN'T ALWAYS CONTROL MYSELF.

"LET ALONE THE PARTS OF THEM I GOT STUCK INSIDE.

"I COULD REALLY HURT PEOPLE."

I'M AFRAID I ALREADY HAVE HURT PEOPLE.
YOU HAVE, CALVIN. YOU HAVE.
BUT I PROMISE YOU, I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT ALL THAT.
I THINK YOU'RE PERFECT.

DARK X-MEN
DARK BEAST

McCOY!
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE. IT WASN'T EASY, AND FOR ME THAT'S SAYING A LOT, BUT WE FOUND YOU.
TRACKED YOU...
DOWN.
KIDNAPPING *CHILDREN*, McCOY?

KIDNAPPING? HOW *QUAINT*.
NO, THIS ONE WAS A *GIFT*.
A RICH ECCENTRIC, TERMINALLY ILL. LIFE FOR *HIM*, *DEATH* FOR HIS NIECE.
NOT THAT SHE WAS *SUPPOSED* TO DIE. I'D HOPED FOR AN INDUCED MUTATION.
SAD.
STILL, NOTHING LIKE THE THRILL OF EXPERIMENTATION, *ESPECIALLY* WHEN THINGS GO WRONG.
IT CAN OFFER UP SUCH... *UNEXPECTED* RESULTS.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, NORMAN?

YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
NO, SADLY NOT. YOU SEE I'VE SPENT THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WITH MY HEAD STUCK UP MY--
I NEED YOUR HELP.
I'M THRILLED.
THE NATION IS FACING A *THREAT*, McCOY.
MUTANTS, OUT OF CONTROL MUTANTS--
THIS ISN'T *MY* NATION. HELL, IT'S NOT MY *DIMENSION*.
I'M AN OUT OF CONTROL MUTANT.
FUGITIVE, YES. OUT OF CONTROL, *NO*, NOT LIKE THESE.
I NEED A WAY TO CONTROL THEM, A WAY TO REDUCE THEIR POWER, TO MAKE THEM SAFE SO THEY CAN BE PLACED OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
BOO HOO. CALL REED RICHARDS, HE'S YOUR GIZMO GO-TO MAN.
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ME AT *ALL*, DO YOU, OSBORN?

ACTUALLY I BELIEVE I DO. I NEED YOU TO EXPERIMENT ON SOMEONE...
I ALREADY AM.
A MUTANT.
A MUTANT?
A YOUNG MAN BY THE NAME OF MICHAEL POINTER.
HE HAS AN ABILITY I CAN USE BUT IT NEEDS TO BE TEMPERED, ALTERED FOR OUR PURPOSES.
A MUTANT.

YOU KNOW, MOST PEOPLE TEND TO IMAGINE EXPERIMENTATION AS BORING LAB WORK.
AND I GUESS IT CAN BE FOR SOME, BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE SUBJECT.
AND HOW WILLING YOU ARE TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY...
CUTTING INTO THE FLESH, ALTERING THE GENETIC CODE, TWISTING AND CHANGING... IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR MOUTH WATER, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
DOING IT TO ANOTHER IS...EXQUISITE. BUT DOING IT TO ONESELF, NOW, THERE LIES SOMETHING TRULY EXTRAORDINARY.
WE BOTH KNOW THIS PARTICULAR DELIGHT, DON'T WE, NORMAN?
OH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK. I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR PAST, PUMPKIN BOMBS AND ALL.
BUT YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

TELL ME...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU WORE YOUR REAL FACE?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU FELT THE RUSH?
YOU STRUT ABOUT THE PLACE PRETENDING TO BE SOMETHING ELSE, BUT WHY?
WHY DENY WHO YOU ARE? IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD, YOU MADE SURE OF THAT.
COME ON, NORMAN, GIVE IN TO THE BEAST INSIDE...

TAKE *YOUR* LEAD THEN? *THAT'S* WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING?
AND WHERE WILL *THAT* GET ME, EXACTLY?
CAST OUT OF MY OWN REALITY? FORCED TO BECOME AN OUTCAST?
TELL ME, HOW'S THE *'RUSH'* FEEL WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN DANK, *DECREPIT* OLD BUILDINGS? HMM?
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE REDUCED TO EXPERIMENTING ON *CHILDREN* IN CONDITIONS MOST *RATS* WOULD FIND INHOSPITABLE?

ACCEPT MY OFFER AND YOU'LL BE GIVEN THE BEST EQUIPMENT MONEY CAN BUY. YOU'LL BE GIVEN ACCESS TO MUTANTS AND ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW MY ORDERS, TOE THE LINE.
'TOE THE LINE', MEMORIES OF HOME.
TIME TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS, McCOY.
AND CUT MYSELF OFF FROM WHO I TRULY AM? I CAN SEE *THAT'S* A PRICE I'M NOT WILLING TO PAY.
YOU NEEDN'T DENY YOUR TRUE NATURE, YOU SIMPLY NEED TO BE DISCREET ABOUT HOW MUCH OF IT YOU REVEAL TO OTHERS.
LIKE YOU, YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU IN OR NOT?

OH I'M IN.
I CAN PLAY THE GOOD HOUSE PET.
BUT DON'T WORRY, NORMAN, I'LL BE SURE TO *REMIND* YOU OF WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.
REMEMBER...
I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

UTOPIA

DARK X-MEN
THE BEGINNING #2

COLOMBIA
"YOU WERE INVITED HERE."
I FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT.
TWO U.S. CITIZENS ARE DESTROYING PROPERTY AND THREATENING LIVES.
BUT RATHER THAN SUMMON MY OWN SUPER-POWERED OPTIONS--
I CALLED YOU, MR. OSBORN.
NOT SOMETHING I COULD HAVE DONE VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
BUT WITH H.A.M.M.E.R. IN PLAY, THOSE OF US WHO VALUE ORDER HAVE MORE OPTIONS.
YOU ARE IN THIS TO GET PAID.
THERE THEY ARE.
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

ONE MINUTE!
ONE MINUTE TO EXTRACTION. READY.
DARK X-MEN
THE TEMPTATION OF CLOAK AND DAGGER

TYRONE JOHNSON?
AND TANDY BOWEN?
I'M SUCH A FAN.
OSBORN--!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE US--?
WELL...

ACTUALLY, I THINK THAT'D BE REALLY HARD.
FIRST, I'VE NO LEVERAGE. THERE'S NOBODY I COULD THREATEN.
SECOND, YOU DON'T LIKE THE GAME, YOU JUST TAKE YOUR BALL HOME.
THIRD, WHY WOULD I WANT TO?
YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS.
AND I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO BEYOND THAT...TO BE ROLE MODELS, TOO.
YOU KNOW, WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY--
WEASEL WORDS.

WE ARE "THE GOOD GUYS."
YOU'RE NOT.
WOULD YOU ENJOY SOME TIME IN THE DARK DIMENSION?
ALONE WITH YOUR THOUGHTS?
JUST YOU AND YOU?
WELL THAT'S JUST IT, TY, I WOULDN'T BE ALONE.
I HAVE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.
INCLUDING THE DARK DIMENSION.
I SAID IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD TO TAKE YOU.
NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
NOW, PLEASE LISTEN TO MY OFFER. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TURNED INSIDE OUT.

TELL US.
I'M PUTTING TOGETHER A TEAM OF X-MEN.
TO REPRESENT THE MUTANT COMMUNITY IN THE NEW ORDER.
I'D LIKE YOU TO--
UH...WE'RE NOT MUTANTS, OSBORN.
OH, I KNOW THAT. BUT TO THE PUBLIC?
YOU'RE PRINCIPLED, PUT UPON, AND A BIT SCARY.
OF COURSE YOU'RE MUTANTS!
YOU MAY ASK WHY I WANT YOU.
I REALLY LIKE YOUR WAR.

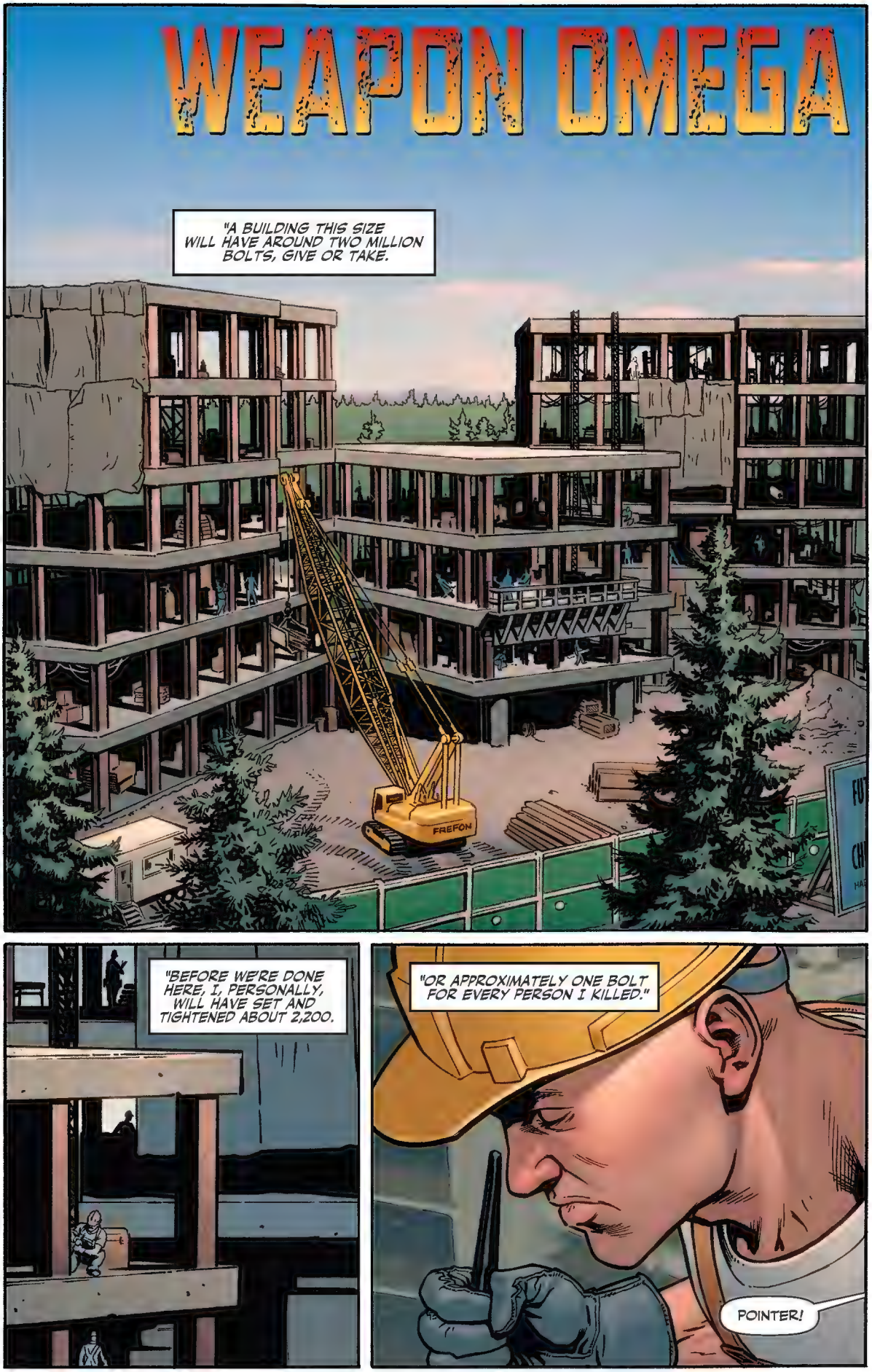
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
"I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO THE DAYLIGHT SIDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT MY PEOPLE ARE MAKING MAJOR ADVANCES IN THE 'WAR ON DRUGS.'
"I'D LIKE TO SHOW THEM THAT WHEN ONE SETS ASIDE LAW AND GIVES ORDER ITS DUE--
"THEN 'WARS' WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY HYPOCRITICAL GESTURES--
"CAN BE FOUGHT FOR REAL. AND WON."

IMAGINE WHAT YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO, WITH THE POLICE PERMANENTLY OFF YOUR BACKS?
WITH THE SUPPORT OF AN ARM OF GOVERNMENT WHO DIDN'T MIND *WHAT* YOU GOT UP TO... GLOBALLY?
AND THE INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE?
I'M SAYING *AFGHANISTAN.*
I'M SAYING *PAKISTAN.*
I'M SAYING THAT'S THE SORT OF VAGUELY REPORTED INTERNATIONAL CARNAGE THAT DECADES OF THE X-MEN'S TRAVELS HAVE RENDERED COMMONPLACE.
SO... HELL OF A STICK.
BUT HELL OF A CARROT TOO.
RIGHT?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IN RETURN?
FIGHT SOME ANTI-MUTANT BIGOTS NOW AND THEN.
AND DO WHAT I SAY. ALWAYS.
THAT'S NOT SO BAD, IS IT?

TY.
TANDY, NO--
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
CALL US HYPOCRITES IF YOU WANT--
BUT FOR ALL THE BENEFITS YOU OFFER--
THAT'S HOW WE'D LIKE TO ENTER INTO THIS ARRANGEMENT: HAVING NO CHOICE.
TANDY, I DON'T CALL YOU ANYTHING AT ALL.
WE ALL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO. OR WHAT WE'D LIKE.
AND SPEAKING OF WHICH--
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT THIS IS *REALLY* FOR.

AS I WALKED OVER, I SOWED THE FIELD WITH BOMBLETS.
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR TAKING ME FOR GRANTED.

I COULD TURN YOU INSIDE OUT AT ANY TIME.
I JUST DON'T NEED A DEVICE TO DO IT.
SO, IF WE'RE FINISHED HERE--
ANY CHANCE OF A LIFT BACK TO ALCATRAZ?
I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU TO GET ME THERE.
AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU--
"YOUR NEW BASE.
"YOUR NEW COMMUNITY.
"YOUR FIRST REAL HOME."


WEAPON OMEGA
"A BUILDING THIS SIZE WILL HAVE AROUND TWO MILLION BOLTS, GIVE OR TAKE.
FREFON
"BEFORE WE'RE DONE HERE, I, PERSONALLY, WILL HAVE SET AND TIGHTENED ABOUT 2,200.
"OR APPROXIMATELY ONE BOLT FOR EVERY PERSON I KILLED."
POINTER!

"IT TOOK ME A YEAR TO LEARN THE EXACT BODY COUNT.
"OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIED BECAUSE SOME EXTRATERRESTRIAL BASTARD USED ME TO CUT A BLOODY SWATH ACROSS ALASKA, NORTHERN CANADA, AND CLEVELAND.
"TWO THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED AND NINE."
HEY, MIKE. ÷COUGH÷ SORRY, MAN. A SUDDEN WAVE OF CRAPPY JUST CAME OVER ME.
THERE'S A GUY DOWNSTAIRS WANTS TO TALK TO YOU. HE'S WEARING A SUIT. ÷KAFF÷ WATCH YOUR WALLET, MAN.
THANKS, CHRIS. FEEL BETTER!
"AND SO I BUILD. CREATION FROM DESTRUCTION. SOMETHING FROM NOTHING.
"ALPHA FROM OMEGA."
MICHAEL POINTER?
FUTURE SITE OF THE NORTH POLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
HARD HAT AREA
NO LOITERING

I'M NORMAN OSBORN.
I'M GOING TO ASSUME THAT YOUR SELF-IMPOSED HANDYMAN EXILE HASN'T PRECLUDED YOU FROM PAYING ATTENTION TO THE WORLD.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OSBORN. USED TO BE CRAZY.
AND I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MICHAEL.
"I KNOW WHAT YOU DID.
"I KNOW WHO YOU KILLED."

WE'RE DONE, OSBORN. WALK AWAY WHILE YOU CAN.
YOU WANT ME TO PLAY THIS, IMAX-SIZE, FOR YOUR WORKER-BEE BUDDIES?
THE
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I WANT YOUR HELP, MICHAEL.
THE
I'M FORMING A NEW TEAM. I'VE SECURED MY AVENGERS. NOW I'M BUILDING MY X-MEN. AND I WANT YOU ON IT.
YOU DON'T WANT ME NEAR OTHER MUTANTS. THEY'LL DIE IF I STAY TOO CLOSE FOR TOO LONG.
THE
IN YOUR CURRENT STATE, YES. BUT THAT IS WHERE *I* HELP *YOU*. HELP YOU SO YOU DON'T INADVERTENTLY KILL MORE INNOCENTS.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THAT IS WHY I AM HERE NOW, MICHAEL.
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL EVERYONE ON THIS SITE.

"A H.A.M.M.E.R. STRIKE TEAM MOVED ON AN ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE HEADING TO VANCOUVER.
"THEY DIDN'T GO PEACEFULLY.
"IN THE FIREFIGHT, THERE WAS A BREACH...AND THE MGH WENT AIRBORNE."
THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE IS DOWNWIND.
THAT MAKES EVERYONE HERE, FOR THE NEXT 20 MINUTES, A MUTANT.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

WE NEED TO... WE NEED TO EVACUATE THE SITE!
WE DON'T NEED TO EVACUATE THE SITE. WE NEED TO EVACUATE *YOU*.
THIS IS WHERE I COME IN, MICHAEL. LET ME HELP YOU.
HELP ME?
GOD HELP ME...
I'VE BEEN OFFERED HELP LIKE THIS BEFORE.
FROM MEN WITH MONEY AND RESOURCES, WHO WANTED ME TO JOIN THEIR PERSONAL CAUSE UNDER THE GUISE OF ATONING FOR MY SINS.
IT NEVER COMES WITHOUT A PRICE.
THIS BLOOD ON MY HANDS IS MINE TO CLEAN. YOU'D JUST REPLACE IT WITH THE BLOOD OF YOUR ENEMIES.
MICHAEL, LET US BE CLEAR ABOUT SOMETHING: THERE WILL ***ALWAYS*** BE BLOOD. THIS IS THE WORLD WE LIVE IN. THE QUESTION IS, WHOSE BLOOD WILL IT BE?

CHRIS! CHRIS, I'M CALLING IT A DAY! NOT FEELING WELL!
WHAT?
GOTTA GO!
I'LL CALL YOU TOM--
THUD
I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
MAN DOWN! CALL 911!

HOLY $#%^! DON'T MOVE HIM! }COUGH{ DON'T--
WHATEVER YOU }KAFF KAFF{ DO, DON'T...
HGH...
CLICK
OH MY GOD.
KRA-KLANG
GET DOWN!

FREFON
GOTTA GET SOME GROUND BETWEEN US...
THERE IS A SCHOOL TWO BLOCKS AWAY. FILLED WITH YOUNG TEMPORARY MUTANTS.
WE EACH KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT DEMONS, YOU AND I.
WE EACH KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO NOT BE IN CONTROL.
LET ME HELP YOU GAIN CONTROL OF YOUR DESTINY.
IF YOU WILL JOIN ME, WE'LL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM TOGETHER.
HANK McCOY HIMSELF WILL DEVOTE EVERY WAKING HOUR TO ENSURING YOU WILL NEVER UNWITTINGLY HARM ANYONE....EVER AGAIN.

WELCOME TO THE X-MEN.
WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
I JUST WANT...I JUST WANT TO--
I KNOW, MICHAEL.
WE'LL FIX IT. WE'LL FIX YOU.

HOW MUCH MGH DID WE USE?
DOES IT MATTER?
WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE MORE. IF POINTER WORKS OUT, IT WAS WORTH IT.
ENERGY SHIELD ON

"THAT MAN'S NO HERO, BUT HE'LL MAKE A HELL OF A WARDEN."

I AM DAKEN
"I AM WOLVERINE.
"AND I AM NOT MY FATHER."
HA!!!!!
"BLOCK. MOVE TO THE LEFT. HE'S GOING TO..."

"BLOCK."
HE AIN'T GOING TO BEG YOU TO COP A FEEL, MOHAWK. YOU GOTTA GET IN THERE LIKE YER DADDY WOULD.
WHAT YOU WAITING FOR?
"RIPOSTE".
PUNCTUAL, DAKEN. THAT'S GOOD.
THAT'S VERY GOOD.
THAT.

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE PUNCTUAL FOR A JOB INTERVIEW.
I'VE GOT A JOB ALREADY, OSBORN. I'M THE SANE ONE IN YOUR *ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST* VERSION OF THE AVENGERS, REMEMBER?
THAT'S WHY I VALUE YOU, DAKEN.
I KNOW I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU.
AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO--
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN JOINING YOU IN ANY OF YOUR POWER-HUNGRY MACHINATIONS, NORMAN. SO WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT PLANNED FOR TONIGHT, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
OH, SO YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE X-MEN, THEN?

WELL NOW...
I DO BELIEVE THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOU LOST FOR WORDS.
SLEEPY'S
"SO. YOU THINK THAT'S IT?
"YOU BELIEVE THAT I THINK THIS WILL KILL MY FATHER...
"SO I CRUMBLE, SAY 'THANK YOU, SIR'? AND SUDDENLY I'M YOUR LITTLE CLAWED LAPDOG?
"YOU THINK YOU CAN 'COUNT ON ME'?
"TRANSLATION: YOU WANT ME IN YOUR X-MEN BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTROL ME.
"YOU THINK THAT MY... RELATIONSHIP WITH MY FATHER IS ALL THAT I AM.

"DO YOU THINK I'M SO EASILY DEFINED?
"DO YOU THINK THAT MY HATE OVERRIDES MY REASON, NORMAN?"

GOOD, WE'RE HERE.
WHAT ARE WE DOING, NORMAN?
ENJOYING A LITTLE CULTURE, DAKEN. IT'S WHAT DISTANCES US FROM THE SAVAGES, YOU KNOW.
GOOD EVENING, MR OSBORN. WELCOME TO THE METROPOLITAN OPERA. FOLLOW ME, PLEASE.
THANK YOU, MY DEAR.
I THOUGHT I'D REMIND YOU OF THE PERKS OF WORKING FOR ME.
DO YOU KNOW, EXACTLY, HOW MUCH A TICKET FOR TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE COSTS?
YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT...
OF COURSE NOT. BUT LOOK AROUND AT THE CROWD. THESE PEOPLE ARE NEW YORK'S ELITE. YET THEY WAIT PATIENTLY IN LINE.
WE DO NOT.
PLEASE. THERE'S NOT A BUILDING ON THIS PLANET I COULDN'T GET INTO IF I WANTED TO.
YOU'RE MISSING THE VERY OBVIOUS POINT.
WHICH IS?

THIS IS ALL ABOUT POWER.

IT'S STRAVINSKY. *OEDIPUS REX.*
I THOUGHT IT WOULD APPEAL TO YOU.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE AWARE OF THE STORY IT'S BASED UPON.
IT'S ABOUT A MAN WHO KILLS HIS OWN FATHER AND SO BECOMES KING.
HE THEN GOES ON TO MARRY HIS OWN MOTHER, HOWEVER, WHICH...HEH... OF COURSE, YOU WON'T BE DOING.
WELCOME TO MY X-MEN, DAKEN.
SLK

TELL ME, NORMAN...
...WHY DO YOU WANT ME IN THE X-MEN?
THE MUTANTS NEED A WOLVERINE AS ONE OF THEIR TRUST FIGURES.
AND EVERY X-TEAM NEEDS THEIR TROUBLED, EDGY, DUMB BERSERKER.
WELL, EVERY SUPER-TEAM PERIOD, IT SEEMS.
"BLOCK."
BESERKER?
DO YOU THINK I'M LIKE VENOM AND BULLSEYE?
"DO YOU THINK I'M INSANE?"

HAHAHAHA...
OH, DAKEN, THAT'S PRICELESS...
YOU ABHOR YOUR FATHER YET SEEM BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF THE IRONY OF YOU 'BECOMING' WOLVERINE.
YOU DRESS UP LIKE YOUR FATHER JUST SO YOU CAN TWIST A KNIFE IN HIS GUTS.
YOU'RE A KILLER WHO'S ENTIRELY DRIVEN BY HATRED, REVENGE AND A BRUTAL NEED FOR VALIDATION.
OF COURSE YOU'RE INSANE.
NOW PUT ON THE SILLY MASK AND STAB A FEW PEOPLE FOR NORMAN OSBORN, LIKE A GOOD BOY.
SOPHOCLES...
"BLOCK."
WHAT?

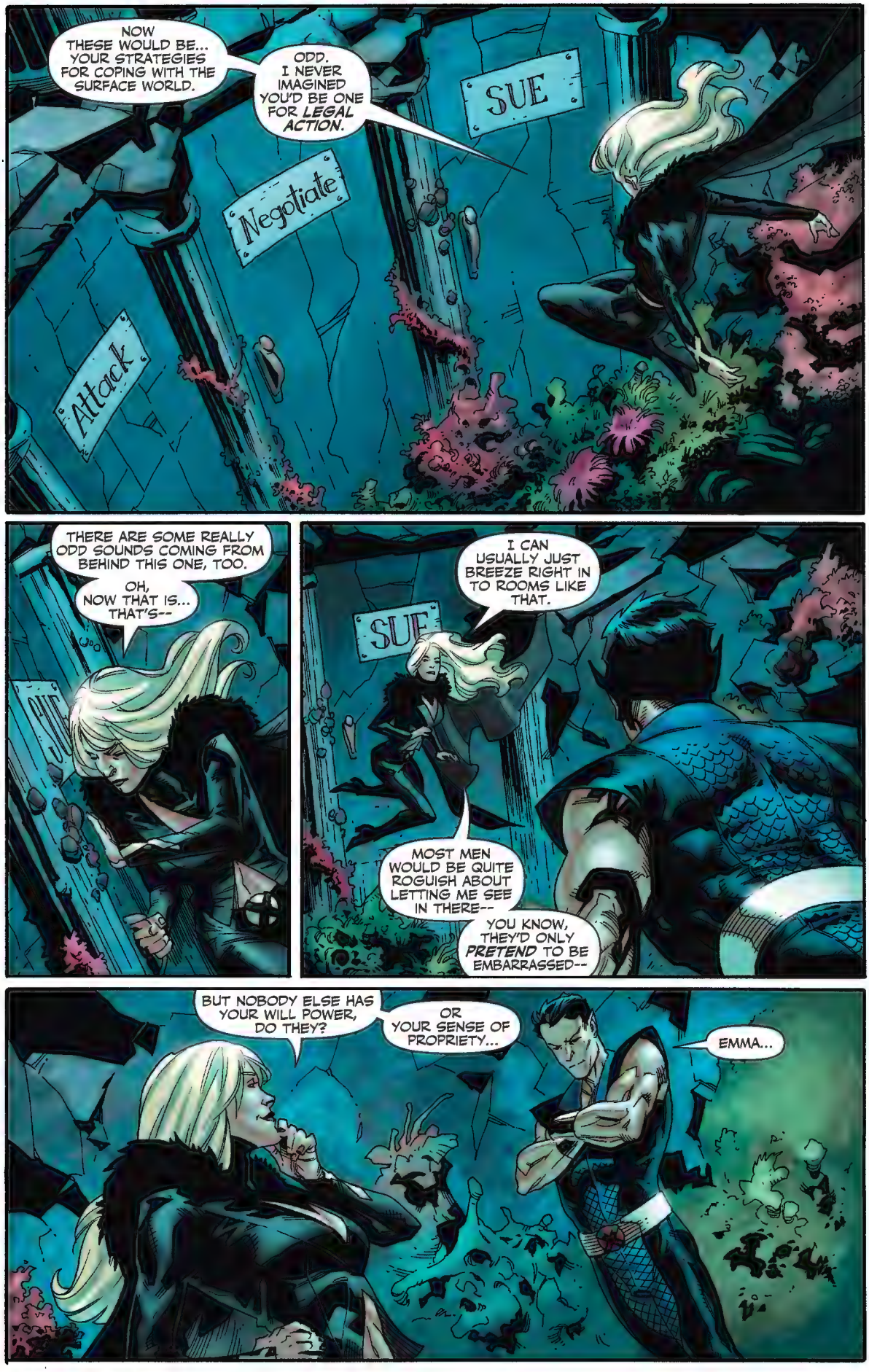
OEDIPUS THE KING WAS WRITTEN BY SOPHOCLES, AN ATHENIAN PLAYWRIGHT WHO LIVED BETWEEN 500 AND 400 B.C.
SLK
STRAVINSKY'S ORATARIO WAS FIRST PERFORMED IN 1927, I THINK. JEAN COCTEAU, THE FRENCH SURREALIST FILMMAKER AND POET, WROTE THE LIBRETTO, BEFORE IT WAS TRANSLATED INTO LATIN.
AT THE STORY'S CLOSE, OEDIPUS REALIZES THAT HE HAS KILLED HIS FATHER AND MARRIED HIS MOTHER AND GOES INSANE, STABBING OUT HIS OWN EYES.
I'LL JOIN YOUR X-MEN, NORMAN. BUT I AM NOT MY FATHER.
YOU DO NOT KNOW ME AND I AM NOT INSANE.
INSANITY IS PUTTING ON A GOBLIN OUTFIT AND LAUGHING LIKE A LUNATIC WHEN YOU THROW EXPLODING PUMPKINS AT STRANGERS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
"RIPOSTE."
ENJOY THE CULTURE.
I HEAR IT'S WHAT SEPARATES US FROM THE SAVAGES.

UTOPIA

DARK X-MEN
THE BEGINNING #3

THIS IS WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR MIND, DEAR?
ATLANTIS: WELL, THAT'S COMMENDABLE.
BUT WHY THE MAD FISH?
HIDDEN DEPTHS
WRITTEN BY PAUL CORNELL
ART BY LEONARD KIRK
COLORS BY BRIAN REBER

I DIDN'T SAY--!
I TOLD YOU YOU COULD LOOK INSIDE MY MIND, FROST, NOT--!
NOT LOOK INSIDE YOUR MIND!
I'M ONLY HERE TO FIND THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION. THAT IS WHAT YOU SAID I COULD DO.
HMM...
WHAT'S IN HERE?
FROST!


NOW THESE WOULD BE... YOUR STRATEGIES FOR COPING WITH THE SURFACE WORLD.
ODD. I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D BE ONE FOR LEGAL ACTION.
SUE
Negotiate
Attack
THERE ARE SOME REALLY ODD SOUNDS COMING FROM BEHIND THIS ONE, TOO.
OH, NOW THAT IS... THAT'S--
I CAN USUALLY JUST BREEZE RIGHT IN TO ROOMS LIKE THAT.
SUE
MOST MEN WOULD BE QUITE ROGUISH ABOUT LETTING ME SEE IN THERE--
YOU KNOW, THEY'D ONLY PRETEND TO BE EMBARRASSED--
BUT NOBODY ELSE HAS YOUR WILL POWER, DO THEY?
OR YOUR SENSE OF PROPRIETY...
EMMA...

TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION THAT BROUGHT YOU IN HERE--
I'M INCREASINGLY WONDERING WHY I *DID* ANSWER YOUR CALL TO JOIN THESE *'X-MEN'*.
UM-HM.
EMMA--
DO I SEE A DOOR OVER THERE WITH *'NAMORA'* ON IT?
WHY *DID* YOU CALL FOR ME?
BECAUSE I WAS AMONGST MY ENEMIES. I WANTED SOMEONE AT MY SIDE WITH IMPECCABLE ETHICS, SOMEONE *HONORABLE*--
--A FRIEND.
A FRIEND!
WELL, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SAY...
I FIND SOME OF *YOUR* FRIENDS *LACKING*.
THESE *'MUTANTS'* ARE AN UNGAINLY BUNCH. CHILDREN, FOOLS...
COWARDS WHO SEEM TO BE OPPRESSING *THEMSELVES*...
RIGHT...

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND DOWN HERE ABOUT *MUTANTS*, SHALL WE?
DAMN IT, FROST, STOP--!
Negotiate
SO. SO IT'S *NOT* ALL ATLANTIS DOWN HERE, THEN!
A GOOD HALF OF THE TERRITORY--
--IS *THAT*.
WHAT THE WORD '*MUTANT*' MEANS TO YOU!

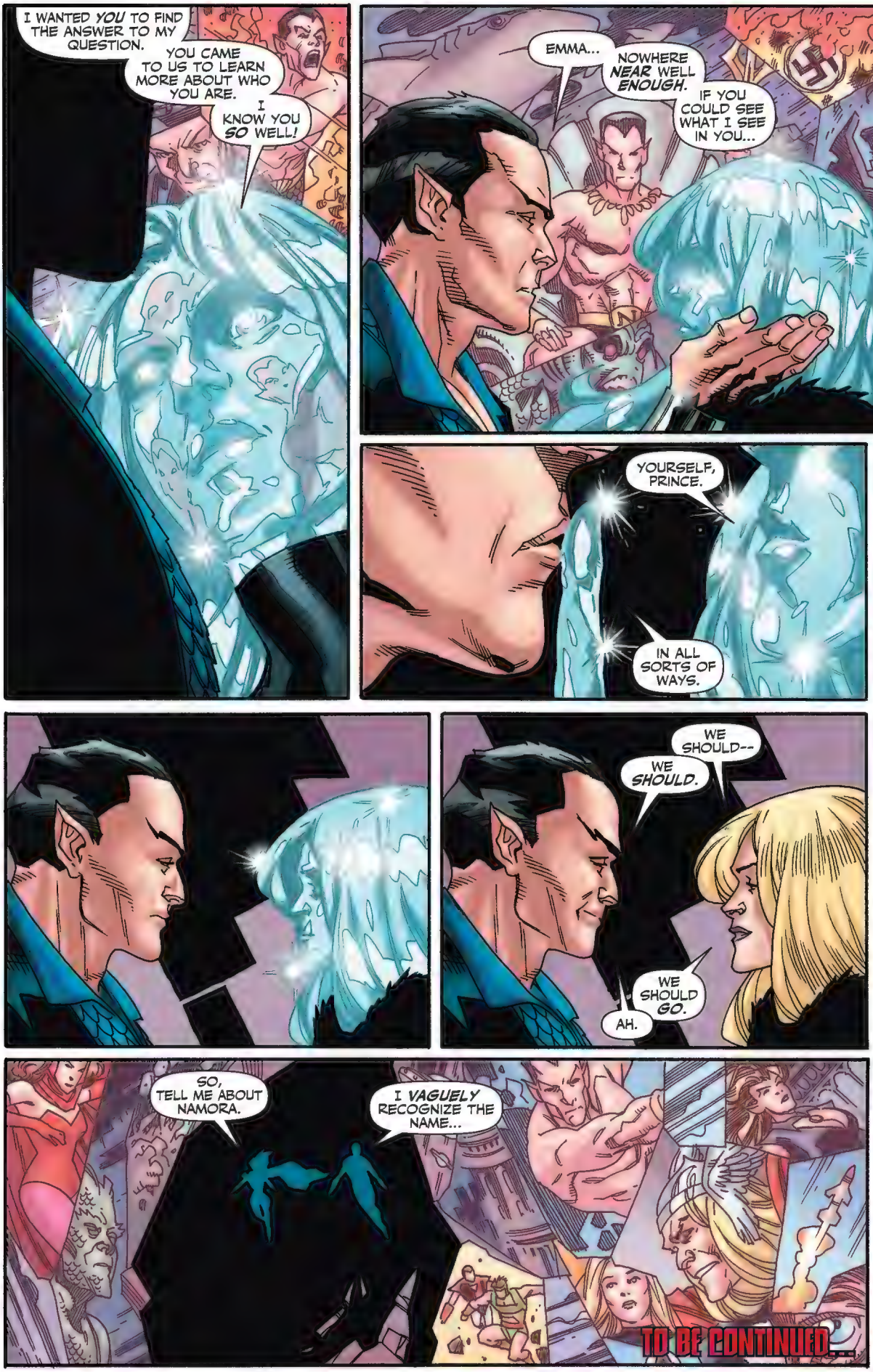
YOU CAME TO HELP ME--
WHILE STILL FEELING LIKE *THAT* ABOUT MUTANTS.
ABOUT *MY PEOPLE.*
MY PEOPLE, IN WHOSE SERVICE I LEFT THE SIDE OF THE MAN WHO FOOLISHLY *LOVES* ME.
AND *BETRAYED* HIM.
FOR WHOM I JOINED THE COMPANY--
OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FIT TO SHARE THE PLANET WITH MOST EVERYDAY HUMAN BEINGS.
THAT IS HOW *YOU*, MY MOST TRUSTED ALLY, MY *'FRIEND'*, FEEL--
ABOUT *ME?!*

I'M JOKING.
OF COURSE.
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF, YOU KNOW, JUDGING YOU ON THE BASIS OF YOUR UNCONSCIOUS.
IT'S BEYOND YOUR CONTROL, AFTER ALL.
BUT I KNOW NOW, DON'T I?
WHEN I GO AND LOOK FOR THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION--
WHY YOU JOINED THE X-MEN WHEN I ASKED YOU TO--
I'M GOING TO FIND IT'S BECAUSE YOU WANT ME.
AND THAT'S ALL.

NAMOR--!
BE SILENT!
I... FEEL...
I KNOW--
THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS IN THERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
I'M GOING TO SEE.
YOU MAY DO AS YOU WISH.

NAMOR?
NAMOR, WHERE--?
IT'S... ME.

IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE. AND IT'S GORGEOUS.
SO NO SURPRISES THERE.
ALL THE DIFFERENT FACETS--
RATHER IMPRESSIVE, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
AND THERE'S THE NEWEST ONE. JUST STARTING TO GROW--
THE DARKNESS OF HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE WORD 'MUTANT'--
IS ONLY YOUR OWN UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BEING ONE. ABOUT WHETHER YOU CAN EXPLORE THAT UNKNOWN SAFELY.
AS YOU WELL KNEW--
WHEN YOU GOADED ME INTO DASHING IN HERE.

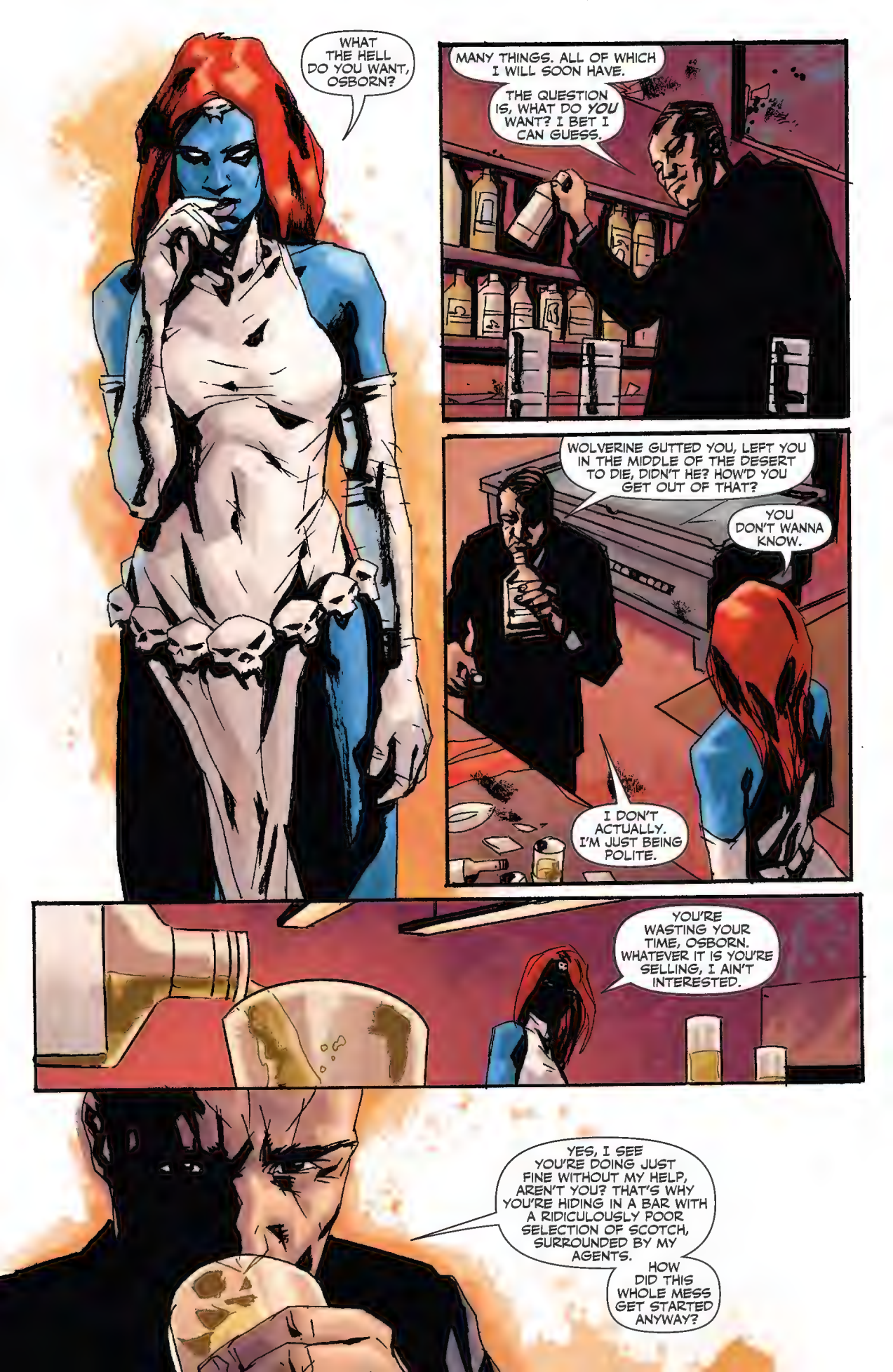

I WANTED YOU TO FIND THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION.
YOU CAME TO US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.
I KNOW YOU SO WELL!
EMMA...
NOWHERE NEAR WELL ENOUGH.
IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT I SEE IN YOU...
YOURSELF, PRINCE.
IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS.
WE SHOULD--
WE SHOULD.
WE SHOULD GO.
AH.
SO, TELL ME ABOUT NAMORA.
I VAGUELY RECOGNIZE THE NAME...
TO BE CONTINUED...

"HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, SIR.
"WE WERE RESPONDING TO A CALL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHEN HE SHOWED UP AND JUST...
"JUST CUT US ALL TO PIECES."

AND HE'S STILL INSIDE?
YES, SIR. HOLDING AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF HOSTAGES.
I HAVE TEAMS STANDING BY FOR ASSAULT, SIR. WE CAN MOVE IN FROM THE ROOF AND TAKE--
NO NEED. I'LL GO IN ALONE.
ALONE? BUT SIR, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS? THIS IS *WOLVERINE* WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE. A GRADE-A RED LEVEL THREAT.
YES, DEAR BOY...
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK *I* AM?
BAR

NICE BIT OF PLAY-ACTING OUT THERE. YOU CERTAINLY FOOLED MY MEN.
TAKE A HIKE, BUB.
"BUB." NICE TOUCH.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO PLAY PANTOMIME THOUGH. MY TIME IS THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY KNOWN TO MAN. YOU WASTE IT AT YOUR PERIL.
GET OUTTA HERE, PAL, BEFORE I CARVE YA LIKE A TURKEY.
RAVEN... YOU'RE MAKING ME ANGRY...

IS *THIS* BETTER?
I KNOW A BROTHEL IN DUBAI THAT WOULD PAY HANDSOMELY TO ADD A SHAPESHIFTER TO THEIR HAREM OF DRUG-ADDLED SEX SLAVES. SHALL I GIVE THEM A CALL?
ONLY IF YOU WANNA HAVE EVERY BONE BELOW YOUR WAIST SNAPPED LIKE A DRIED-UP OLD TWIG.
TAKE OFF THAT FACE OR I GUARANTEE YOU ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO DIE HERE TODAY.
BOY, YOU REALLY DO HAVE IT BAD FOR THAT GUY, HUH?


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT, OSBORN?
MANY THINGS. ALL OF WHICH I WILL SOON HAVE.
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT DO *YOU* WANT? I BET I CAN GUESS.
WOLVERINE GUTTED YOU, LEFT YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT TO DIE, DIDN'T HE? HOW'D YOU GET OUT OF THAT?
YOU DON'T WANNA KNOW.
I DON'T ACTUALLY. I'M JUST BEING POLITE.
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, OSBORN. WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE SELLING, I AIN'T INTERESTED.
YES, I SEE YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT MY HELP, AREN'T YOU? THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HIDING IN A BAR WITH A RIDICULOUSLY POOR SELECTION OF SCOTCH, SURROUNDED BY MY AGENTS.
HOW DID THIS WHOLE MESS GET STARTED ANYWAY?

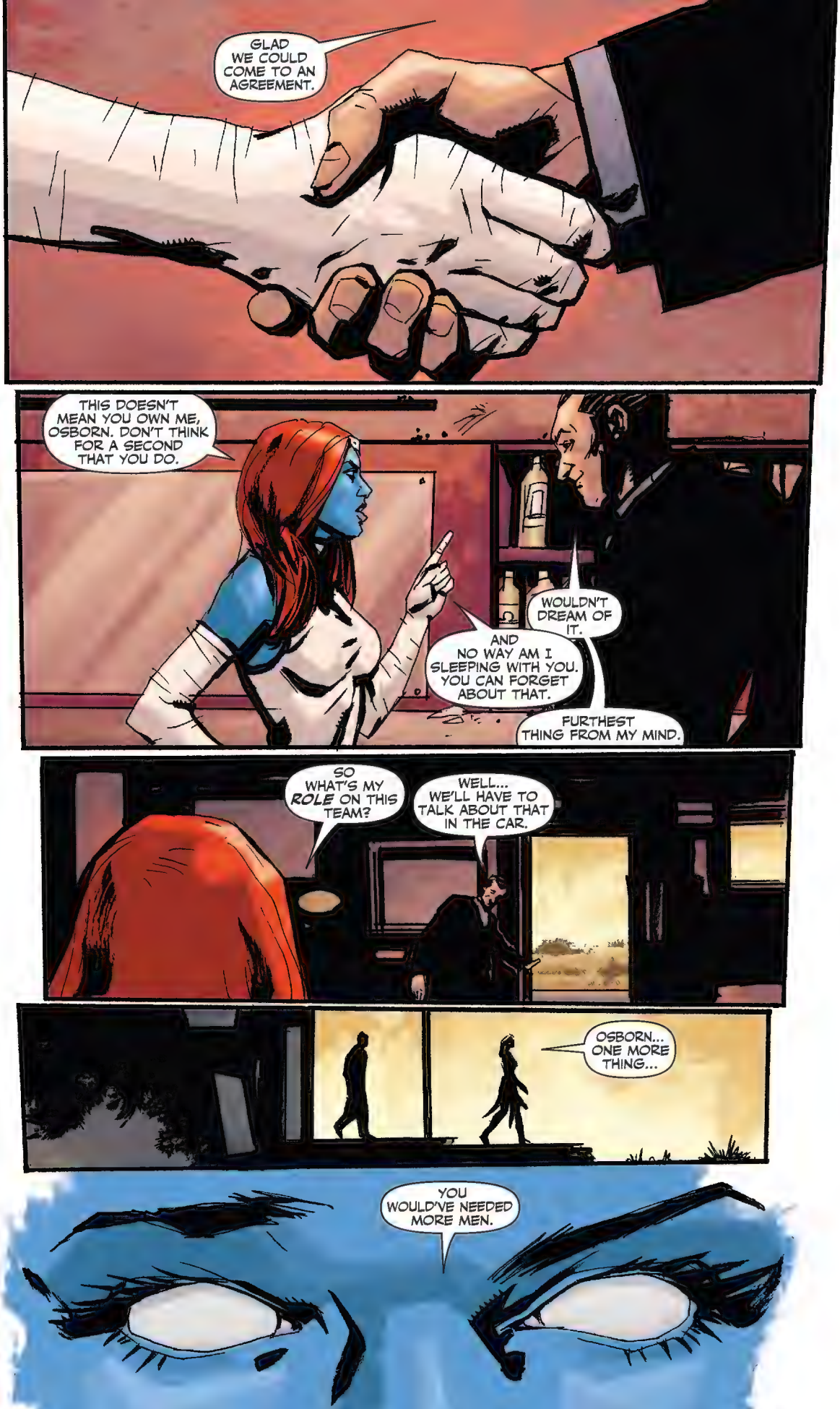
I GOT BORED.
I CAN HELP WITH THAT. I'M PUTTING MY OWN TEAM OF X-MEN TOGETHER. I WANT YOU ON IT.
YOU PLAY ALONG, I'LL GIVE YOU WOLVERINE.
YEAH, RIGHT.
EXCUSE ME, MY HOSTAGES ARE GETTING RESTLESS.
YOU AIN'T WOLVERINE!
YOU MUST BE THE GENIUS OF THE BUNCH.
C'MON THEN.

HAARR!
SNAP
CRACK
POP
FUMP

NEXT.

WHACK
THUNK
AAARRGGHH!!!

YOU CAN CRIPPLE EVERY BIKER IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW, IT STILL WON'T GET YOU A SHOT AT WOLVERINE.
YEAH?
NEITHER WILL YOU. NICE CHATTING WITH YOU THOUGH.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
RIGHT OUT THE FRONT DOOR.
YOU KNOW HOW MANY MEN I HAVE OUTSIDE THAT DOOR?
NOT ENOUGH.
CHK-CHAK
SO I GUESS THAT'S A *NO* THEN ON MY OFFER?
GO TO HELL, NORMAN.
THAT'S TOO BAD. THE OTHERS WILL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED. ESPECIALLY *DAKEN*. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO INTRODUCING YOU TWO.
YOU DID KNOW WOLVERINE HAD A *SON*, RIGHT?


GLAD WE COULD COME TO AN AGREEMENT.
THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU OWN ME, OSBORN. DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND THAT YOU DO.
WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.
AND NO WAY AM I SLEEPING WITH YOU. YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT THAT.
FURTHEST THING FROM MY MIND.
SO WHAT'S MY ROLE ON THIS TEAM?
WELL... WE'LL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT IN THE CAR.
OSBORN... ONE MORE THING...
YOU WOULD'VE NEEDED MORE MEN.

GET MYSTIQUE
(Slight Return)

WRITTEN JASON AARON
ART BY JOCK
COLORS BY DAVE STEWART

MY NAME IS JEANNE-MARIE BEAUBIER.
AND I'M NOT CRAZY.
F-FINE.
I'VE BEEN DOING FINE.
GO ON...
WELL, I'M... I'M WORKING AGAIN. I MADE SOME FRIENDS AT CHURCH. A-AND I TOOK UP WATERCOLORS.
I DON'T DRINK, I DON'T CURSE. I MANAGE THE FAMILY SPORTS BRAND. SOME NIGHTS I BABYSIT FOR THE NEIGHBORS.
YOU KNOW: NORMAL.
TRUE, I CAN FLY AT MACH-50 WITHOUT EFFORT AND EMIT REGENERATIVE ENERGY WHEN I TOUCH MY BROTHER, BUT... MOSTLY THAT'S BEHIND ME.
A LOT OF THINGS ARE BEHIND ME, NOW.
AND THE EPISODES?
THE EPISODES ARE GONE, DOCTOR.
SHE'S GONE.
EXCELLENT.
EXCELLENT PROGRESS, JEANNIE.
I'D LIKE TO RUN ONE FURTHER TEST, WITH YOUR PERMISSION. IT'S A NEW TYPE OF E.E.G.
IT'LL LET US MONITOR YOUR NEURAL ACTIVITY. JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, YES?
I-IF YOU THINK IT'S NECESSARY...

I DO.
UUUH.
NNN...
YOUR PATIENT.
YOUR MONEY.
MISS BEAUBIER? NORMAN OSBORN.
A PLEASURE.
THE DEVICE YOU'RE WEARING IS A THALAMIZER.
ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO IDENTIFY THE CENTERS OF ACTIVITY IN YOUR PARIETAL CORTEX AND--BY MEANS OF INVERSE INDUCTION-- TO NEGATE THEM.
WHICH IS TO SAY: IT BLOCKS YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS.
NOW: IN MOST CASES THAT'LL CAUSE AN AMUSING STATE OF BEWILDERMENT AND BOWEL DYSFUNCTION.
IN YOURS-- I THINK YOU'LL AGREE-- THE EFFECT IS A LITTLE GRANDER.

I SEE YOU'VE NOTICED THE COSTUME. GOOD.
CONSIDER IT A GIFT.
ALL I WANT IN RETURN IS A FEW SECONDS OF YOUR PRECIOUS--
--TIME.
HM.
OUT FRONT BE QUICK!
LET'S START AGAIN, SHALL WE?
MY NAME IS JEANNE-MARIE BEAUBIER AND I'M CRAZY AS SIN.
TOOK YOUR TIME, GRANDPA.
I HAVE TWO DISTINCT AND DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSING PERSONALITIES, AND THE ONLY THING WE AGREE ON--ME AND THE VIRGIN MARY YOU MET BEFORE--IS THAT TWO IS ONE-TOO-MANY.
I WANT TO--
RECRUIT ME FOR THIS. YEAH...
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
H.A.M.M.E.R
Project #0V4Z:
"X-MEN"

AND BEAR IN MIND I'VE ALREADY EMPTIED YOUR *POCKETS* AND THIEVED YOUR *GUN*.
PLUS-- *SORRY*-- *ARMADILLO-HAIR* DOESN'T *DO IT* FOR ME.
...
LET'S STEP INTO MY *OFFICE*.

H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER
"...AND ANOTHER THING: YOU KNOW HOW LONG SINCE SHE LAST DATED?
"THREE YEARS. AND EVEN THAT WAS A #€$@€*% CHOIR SINGER.
"NO TONGUES ALLOWED."
IT'S LIKE BEING STUCK IN THE BRAIN OF MOTHER THERESA.
SAY: HAS THIS THING GOT A BAR?
W--
NEVER MIND-- FOUND IT.
ANYWAY: NOW SHE'S IN *€$%€*% THERAPY I BARELY GET A LOOK-IN.
PL--
AND IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S MISS LIMELIGHT ANYWAY.
I MEAN, EVEN WHEN SHE DOES GET SOMETHING RIGHT, WHO GETS THE KUDOS?
TH--
BIG BRO AND HIS PINK-VOTE PR. "GAY HERO JOINS THE X-MEN!" IT'S PATHE--
ENOUGH.
I DIDN'T LET YOU OUT OF YOUR CAGE, MISS BEAUBIER, TO PRATTLE LIKE A BEAUTY-SALON MORON.
SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN.
...
NOW. AS YOU'VE SEEN, I HAVE THE MEANS TO INSURE SHE NEVER TAKES THE REINS AGAIN. FOR THAT YOU OWE ME.
AS FOR YOUR BROTHER-- AS FOR THE OLD X-MEN--
I DON'T BELIEVE THEY'LL BE STEALING THE GLORY MUCH LONGER.

Y'KNOW... YOU *TALK* A GOOD TALK, NORM... BUT HERE'S THE *THING:*
I'VE SPENT LONG ENOUGH LOOKING IN THE *MIRROR* TO KNOW *CRAZY* WHEN I SEE IT.
YOUR *GIZMO* CAN *FIX* ME, SURE-- THANKS A MILLION--
--BUT I'D BE KINDA *DUMB* TO START TAKING ORDERS FROM SOMEONE STILL *BROKEN,* DON'T YOU *THINK?*
SO I'M *GRATEFUL* FOR THE *CHAT*-- IT WAS REAL *CATHARTIC.*
BUT THE *REST* OF IT: *NO THANKS.*
MISS BEAUBIER, PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T *UNDERSTAND.*
I'M NORMAN *OSBORN.*
BIP
I *GET* WHAT I *WANT.*
AAARRGGHH!!!

TRYING TO TAKE IT OFF WILL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE.
I DID WARN YOU, YOU KNOW. "PRIMARY FUNCTION," I SAID.
YOU NEVER ASKED WHAT ELSE IT DOES.
FOR INSTANCE: IDENTIFYING THE PARTS OF YOUR POSTCENTRAL GYRUS--THAT'S WHERE YOUR PAIN LIVES--
--WHICH YOUR SECOND PERSONALITY USES THE MOST.
THEN NUKING THEM.
I'M TOLD IT'S LIKE BEING FLAYED BY ICE. HELL OF AN IMAGE.
AT ANY RATE: YOU CAN'T JUST SIDESTEP BACK TO EGO #1, CAN YOU, 'CAUSE POOR MOTHER THERESA'S STILL BLOCKED...
SO THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO DO, MISS BEAUBIER, EXCEPT GO WITH THESE NICE MEN TO MEET YOUR NEW TEAM.
AND START LEARNING A LITTLE RESPECT.
OH, YOU'RE A PROUD WOMAN, I KNOW. YOU DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE YOU CAVED TOO EASY.
SO I'LL GIVE YOU A MINUTE OR TWO BEFORE SWITCHING-OFF. MY LITTLE TREAT.
JUST TRY NOT TO RUIN THE CARPET, HUH?
UPHOLSTERY IS THE LEAST OF YOUR CONCERNS, MR. OSBORN.

BUT... HOW DID...
PERSONALITY NUMBER THREE.
MY NAME IS JEANNE-MARIE BEAUBIER.
I LIKE FINE WINES, HORSE RIDING AND CASUAL ULTRAVIOLENCE.
NNN... NNN
S-SIR?
TH-- THE DEVICE WILL ADJUST TO THE NEW PATTERN...
JUST GET READY...
AUUUGH...
NOW!
TERMINATE HER!
AND THAT'S NUMBER FOUR.
MY NAME IS JEANNE-MARIE BEAUBIER.
I'M A WEEKEND GOTH, OCCASIONALLY SELF-HARM, AND HAVE AN INEXPLICABLE AVERSION TO SHELLFISH...

AAAAAA!
NUMÉRO CINQ.
...J'AIME LES ACTIVITÉS SPORTIF, LA PHOTOGRAPHIE, ET LA PALÉONTOLOGIE AMATEUR...
NUMBER SIX.
...OPERA, GARDENING, CREATIONIST LITERATURE...
...GRAFFITI, MILD S&M, GAMBLING...
LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN--
FWAP
--ISN'T SO LUCKY.

Y-YOU REALLY SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER, NORM.
MAKING NEW VERSIONS OF ME WAS THE FIRST TRICK I EVER LEARNED.
ALSO THE LAST.
AAAAAAA!
SO WHAT'S SO #¢$@¢*% SPECIAL ABOUT NUMBER EIGHT?
SHE'S RECKLESS.
KOOM
THWUP
A...AAAK...
A-AND...
SH-- SHE'S A C-COMMITTED...
MASOCHIST.

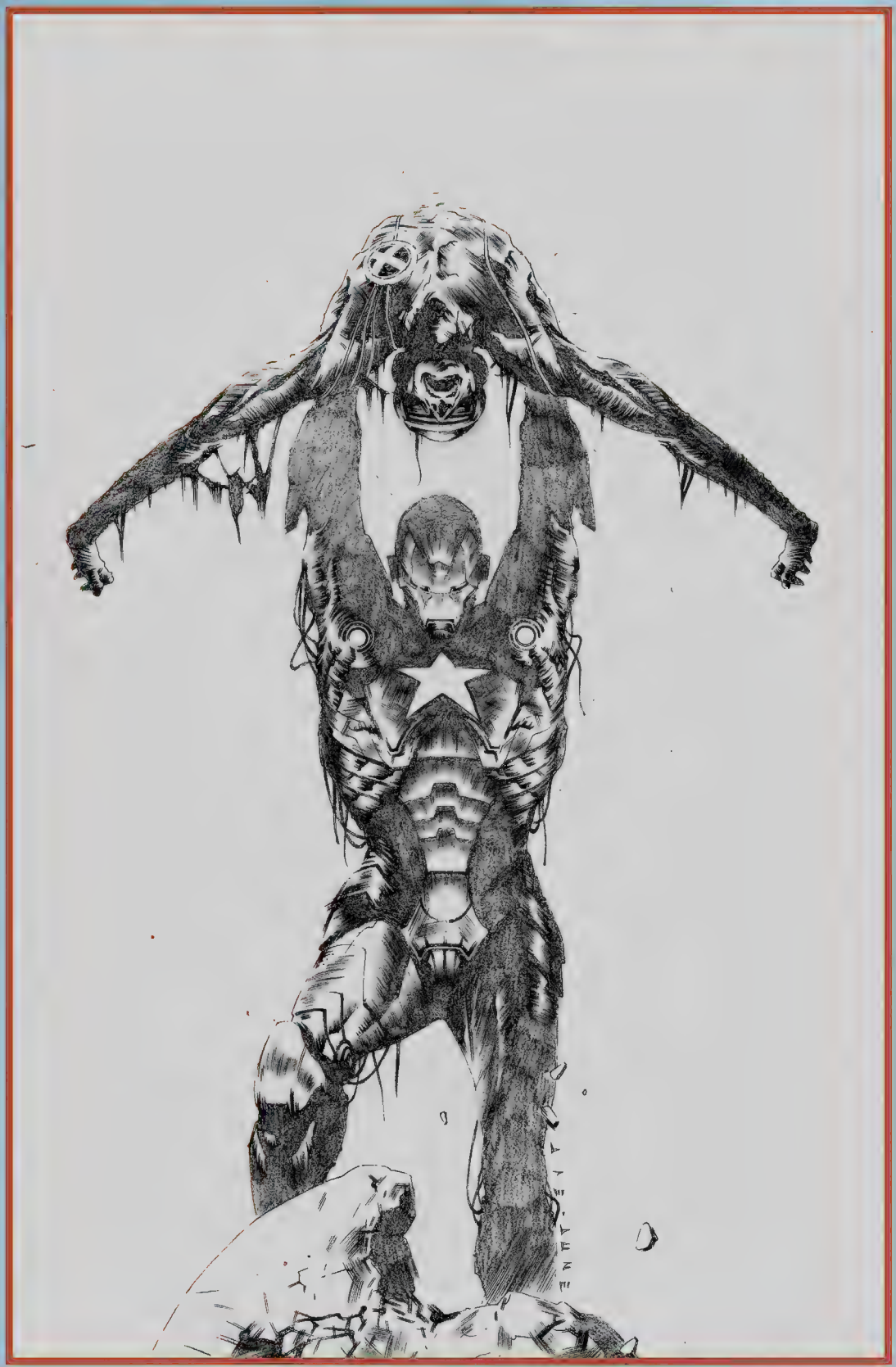
*#%@
MY NAME IS JEANNE-MARIE BEAUBIER. I MAY BE A LITTLE CRAZY AFTER ALL.
AAAUGGH!
THE SPIDER THE SPIDER THE SPIDER
KILL
AAAAUGGH!
THE GOBLIN KING ON DUSTED THRONE DECLARES A FAIR OF BLOOD AND BONE
BUT IT COULD BE WORSE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS JOB OFFER, MR. OSBORN.
I'M AFRAID I MUST RESPECTFULLY DECLINE.
B4P
AAAAAA--
I DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE WITH YOUR MAJOR SHAREHOLDER.
THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY
Written by Simon Spurrier
Art by Paul Davidson
Colors by Rain Beredo
END

UTOPIA

CHAPTER ONE
VARIANT COVER
BY JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG

UTOPIA

CHAPTER ONE
SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON
VARIANT COVER BY JAE LEE



UTOPIA

CHAPTER ONE
VARIANT COVER BY SIMONE BIANCHI & SIMONE PERUZZI

UTOPIA

CHAPTER TWO

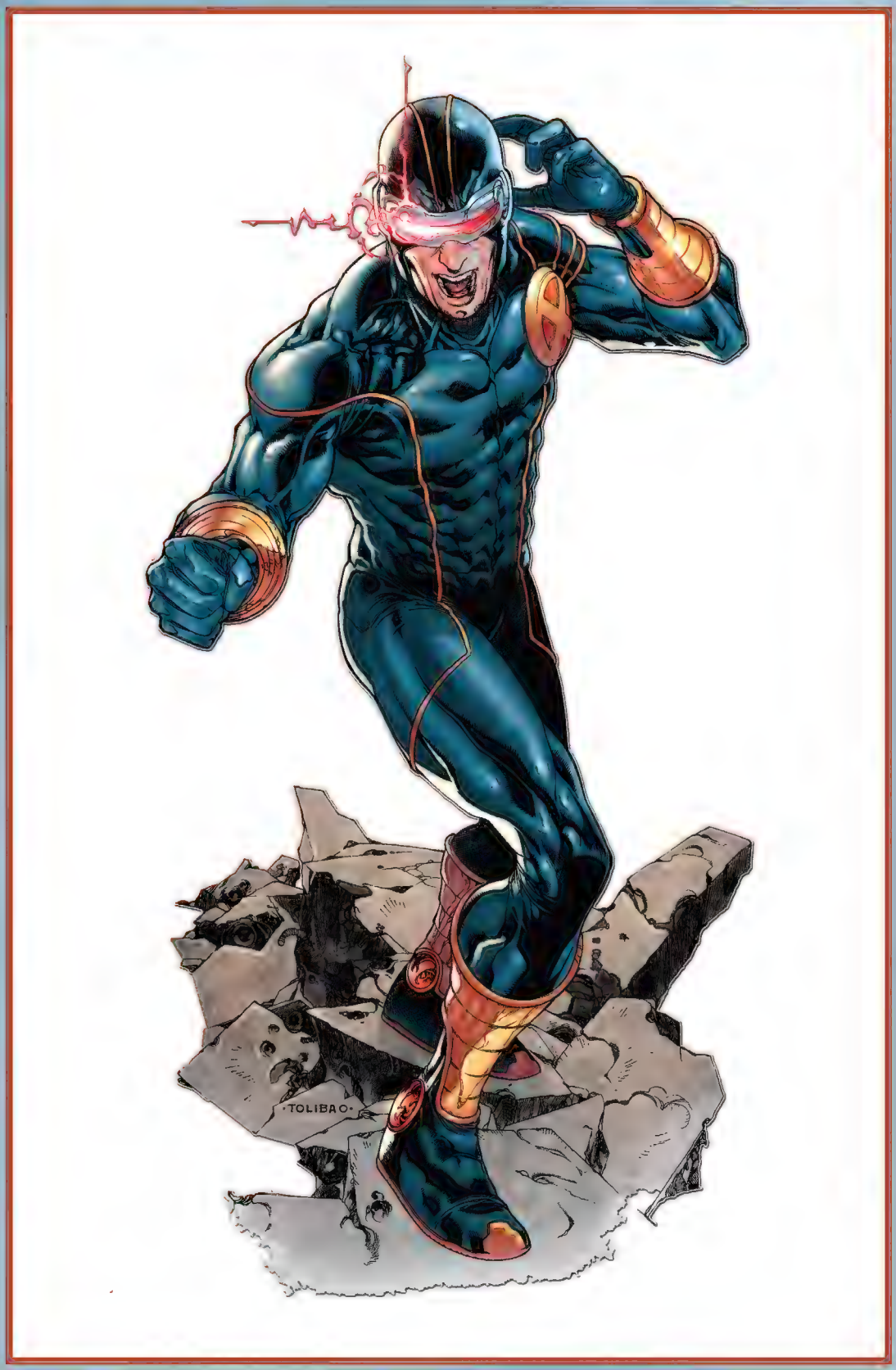
VARIANT COVER BY SIMONE BIANCHI & SIMONE PERUZZI

UTOPIA

CHAPTER THREE
VARIANT COVER BY SIMONE BIANCHI & SIMONE PERUZZI

UTOPIA

CHAPTER FOUR
70TH ANNIVERSARY FRAME VARIANT COVER BY HARVEY TOLIBAO & RAIN BEREDO



UTOPIA

CHAPTER FOUR
VARIANT COVER BY SIMONE BIANCHI & SIMONE PERUZZI

UTOPIA

CHAPTER FIVE

VARIANT COVER BY SIMONE BIANCHI & SIMONE PERUZZI

UTOPIA

CHAPTER FIVE

70TH ANNIVERSARY FRAME VARIANT COVER BY MIKE DEODATO & RAIN BEREDO

UTOPIA

CONCLUSION

EXODUS VARIANT COVER BY SIMONE BIANCHI

UTOPIA

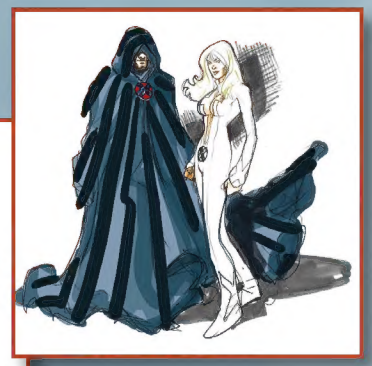
X-MEN LEGACY #227
70TH ANNIVERSARY FRAME
VARIANT COVER BY GREG LAND
& JUSTIN PONSOR

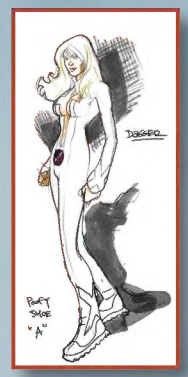
UTOPIA

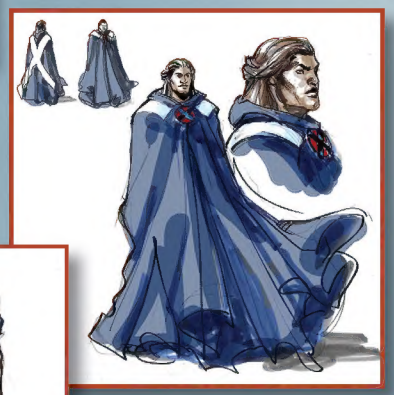
DARK X-MEN THE BEGINNING #1

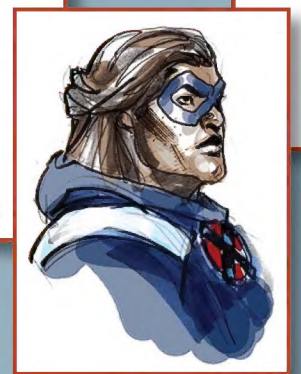
'60S DECADE VARIANT COVER BY NICO HENRICHON

DARK X-MEN CHARACTER DESIGNS BY TERRY DODSON

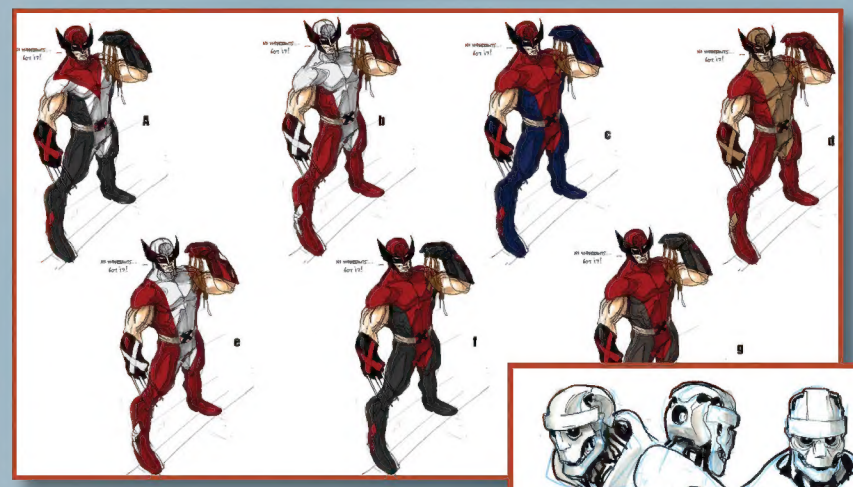


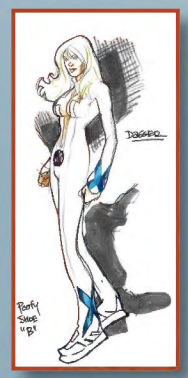




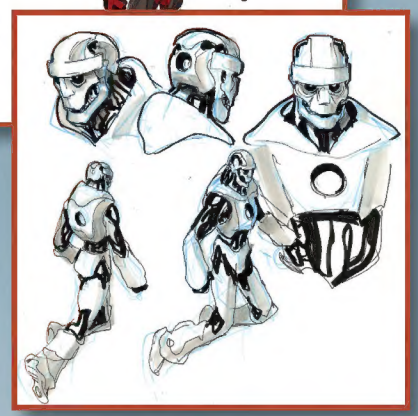


CLOAK & DAGGER

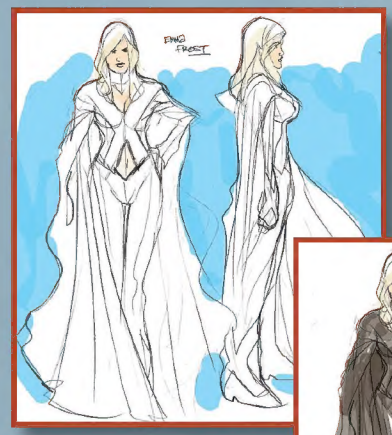




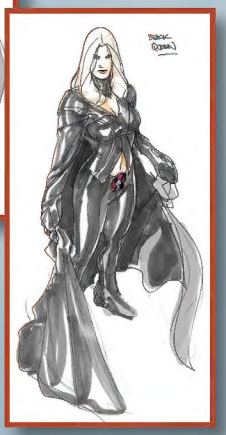
DAKEN



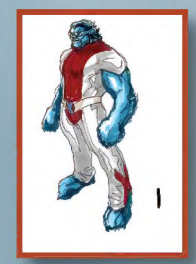
HUMAN SENTINEL

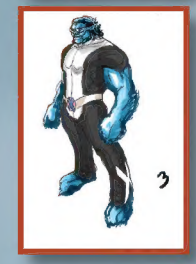


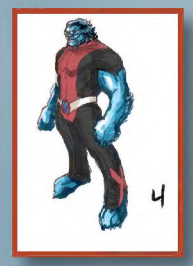
EMMA FROST

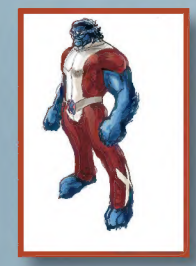


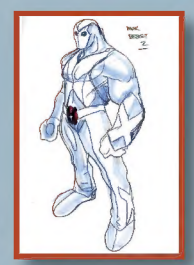
DARK BEAST

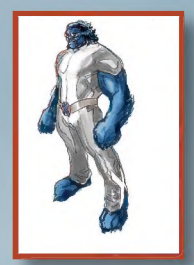


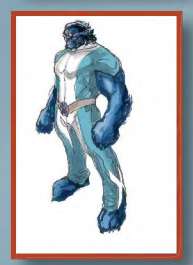






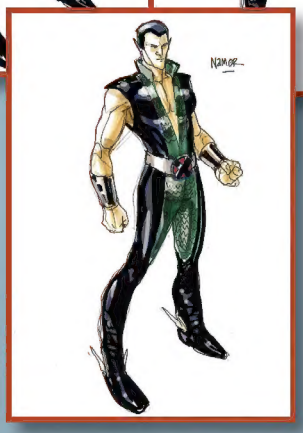




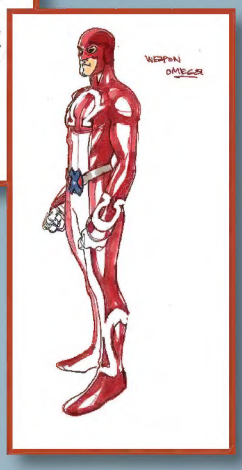


MYSTIQUE AS PROFESSOR XAVIER

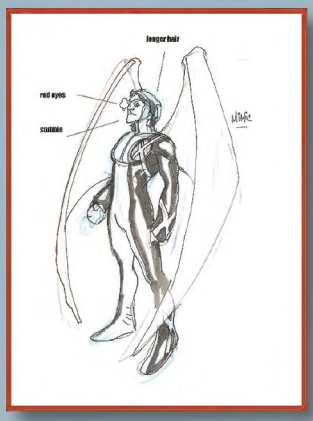
NAMOR



WEAPON OMEGA



MIMIC



"…(Fraction and Silvestri) set up Marvel's big summer crossover in an interesting, complex way."
— Bryan Joel, *IGN.com*

Norman Osborn runs the Avengers, promising America a new day of safety and security. Cyclops leads the X-Men — determined to free mutantkind from the forces of cold, impersonal, unreasoning institutional racism that threaten them. Both leaders are locked in a high-stakes chess match with the prize being their respective visions of utopia, and Emma Frost the one piece that could make either the winner! But which side of the board is she on?

Plus: Who are the Dark X-Men? Find out the secrets behind this uncanny assemblage of mutants — including Cloak, Dagger, Daken and Namor the Sub-Mariner!

Collecting *Dark Avengers/Uncanny X-Men: Utopia* and *Exodus, Uncanny X-Men #513-514, Dark Avengers #7-8, Dark X-Men: The Beginning #1-3, X-Men Legacy #226-227, Dark X-Men: The Confession,* and material from *Dark Reign: The Cabal.*

T+

MARVEL